

Zoologique, 68100 Mulhouse, France. [The studbook includes papers on the following topics: 'Hylobates concolor: taxonomy, geographical distribution, genetics and status in the wild' by J.-M. Lernoald (French and English texts); 'Écologie et éthologie du gibbon de Hainan (*Hylobates concolor hainanus*) au Vietnam' by Dao Van Tien (French text only); and 'The crested gibbon, *Hylobates (Nomascus) concolor* (Harlan 1826) in the Nam Cat Tien Reserve, southern Vietnam' by H. Joerg Adler (English text only).]

Giant Panda (*Ailuropoda melanoleuca*) - 103 (45.51.7) in 31 institutions, of which 86 (37.44.5) are in 23 Chinese collections and 17 (8.7.2) are in 8 zoos outside China. Contact Dr Devra Kleiman, National Zoological Park, 3000 Block of Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20008, U.S.A.

Goeldi's Monkey (*Callimico goeldii*) — 440 (217.195.28) in 75 institutions. Contact Mark Warneke, Chicago Zoological Society, 3300 Golf Road, Brookfield, Illinois 60513, U.S.A.

Gorilla: Western Lowland (*Gorilla g. gorilla*) — 685 (311.374), of whom 316 are wild-born and 369 captive-born, in 142 collections. [651 (292.359).] Eastern Lowland (*G. g. graueri*) — 7 (4.3) in 4 zoos. [8 (4.4).] Contact Dr Rosl Kirchshofer, Zoologischer Garten Frankfurt, Alfred-Brehm-Platz 16, D-6000 Frankfurt am Main 1, Germany.

Hartmann's Mountain Zebra (*Equus zebra hartmannae*) — 283 (110.173) in 42 collections. Contact Linda Hayward, Marwell Zoological Park, Colden Common, Winchester, Hampshire SO21 1JH, U.K.

Matschie's Tree Kangaroo (*Dendrolagus matschiei*) — 86 (38.45.3) in 26 institutions. [82 (36.46).] Contact Larry Collins, NZP Conservation and Research Center, Front Royal, Virginia 22630, U.S.A.

Rothschild's Peacock Pheasant (*Polyplectron inopinatum*) — 111 (46.32.33) in 8 institutions. Contact Donald Bruning, NYZS/Wildlife Conservation Society, 185th and Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10460, U.S.A.

Ruffed Lemur: Black-and-white ruffed lemur (*Varecia v. variegata*) — 1,271 (632.514.125) in 173 collections. Red ruffed lemur (*V. v. ruber*) — 471 (235.205.31) in 78 collections. Contact Ingrid Porton, St Louis Zoological Park, Forest Park, St Louis, Missouri 63110, U.S.A.

St Vincent Parrot (*Amazona guildingii*) — 73 (31.30.12) in 14 collections. Contact David Jeggo, Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, Les Augrès Manor, Jersey, Channel Islands.

### International Orang-utan Conference

The first International Conference on Orang-utans, 'The Neglected Ape', will be co-hosted by the California State University (Fullerton), Zoological Society of San Diego, and Atlanta/Fulton County Zoo, Inc. The meeting will be held from 5th to 8th March 1994. Paper and poster presentations are scheduled for 5th-7th March in Fullerton; and workshops, tours, and a special evening presentation is planned at San Diego Zoo and Wild Animal Park for 8th March. For registration information and abstract guidelines, contact Norm Rosen, Department of Anthropology, California State University, Fullerton, California 92634-9480, fax 310-798-0576.

## MISCELLANY

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### Black Rhino Genetic Research

As the population of free-ranging black rhinoceroses declines rapidly, the need for information concerning the genetic health of the species has become urgent. Dr Michael Worley and Ann Carpenter of the virology/immunology laboratory at San Diego's Center for Reproduction of Endangered Species have isolated DNA clones of the major histocompatibility complex (MHC) of the two subspecies of black rhinoceros. The MHC plays a major role in the recognition of infectious agents as being foreign and in the regulation of the ensuing immune response. Many scientists believe there is a direct correlation between the extent of genetic variation in the MHC and the ability of an individual's immune system to respond beneficially against infectious organisms. Using the DNA clones they have isolated as molecular probes, Worley and Carpenter will determine the level of variation in this gene product in both captive-raised and free-ranging members of the two geographically separated black rhino subspecies.

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### University Honours Zoo Director

The University of Edinburgh recently awarded an honorary professorship to Roger Wheater. Professor Wheater was appointed Director of the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (Edinburgh Zoo) in 1972, following his

departure from Uganda, where he had served as Director of National Parks. He was elected to the Council of the International Union of Directors of Zoological Gardens in 1980, and became its President in 1989. He has been Vice-Chairman of the Federation of Zoological Gardens of Great Britain and Ireland since 1980, and also serves on various committees relating to zoo and conservation affairs.

### Drills in North America

In July 1992, successful drill (*Mandrillus leucophaeus*) births took place in North America after a lapse of ten years. The birth of a male at Los Angeles Zoo was followed four days later by the birth of a female at Zoo Atlanta. In both cases, the young were sired by parent-raised males on loan from Hanover Zoo, Germany. Cooperation with EEP institutions has proven essential in bolstering reproduction in the Drill SSP. There were no losses in North America during 1992, and the births are very encouraging. Nevertheless, the SSP population remains small (9.15), and several of the females are post-reproductive; two moves are scheduled to take place this spring in an effort to increase reproductive potential.

All available information suggests that conditions for drills in the wild are marginal, and the potential to assist in conservation activities varies with the perspective of the governing authorities. Unfortunately, permits to conduct a survey on Bioko in January