

RHINO RESOURCE CENTER

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NEWSLETTER #26 FEBRUARY 2012

Dear colleagues and friends,

This is the 26th issue of the quarterly e-newsletter of the Rhino Resource Center. Edited by Dr Kees Rookmaaker.

The total number of references in the collection of the RRC now stands at 16,219. This represents a quarterly increase of 364 items.

Over 14,500 references are available as PDF on the RRC website.

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The Rhino Resource Center is a Charity (Registered KvK Utrecht 30185802)

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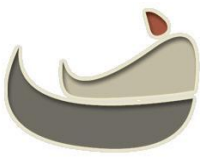
CAPTURE OF 'PUNTUNG' IN SABAH

On 18 December 2011, finally, a female rhinoceros walked into a trap in one of the forests in Sabah, Borneo, Malaysia. Quickly named *Puntung*, she was soon transported by helicopter to a safe enclosure by the Rhino Rescue Unit. Reports are that she is doing well, even though it was found that some terminal bones in her left foot were missing. It is hoped to mate her with a male *Tam*, who has been under the care of the [Borneo Rhino Alliance](#) for some time. [Follow the [link](#) for more information]



(Photo © BORA)

Success of reproduction in a semi-*in situ* enclosure (in this case in Tabin Wildlife Reserve) is just about the only hope for the continued existence of the species. The Sumatran Rhinoceros is so highly endangered that every individual counts, and a reproducing couple would just be the most wonderful sight on earth.



RHINO HORN THEFTS

On 7 May 1912, the [Straits Times](#) in Singapore reported that “thirteen rhinoceros horns - which are used locally in the manufacture of medicines - were stolen last night from a room in premises on Boat Quay occupied by Lee See Kow. The value of the horns was \$670.”

Over the past couple of years, reports of rhino horn thefts from museums, private collections and auction houses have mushroomed in the media. With the continuing belief in the possible medicinal efficacy of rhino horn products, demand has driven the price of the commodity up to \$75,000 per kg. Criminal gangs have sadly targeted some of the natural history museums across Europe. Most museums now no longer display the real horns, replacing them with fibre glass where possible, while keeping the treasured horns in safe and secret depots.

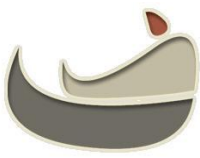


It took two minutes for thieves to remove both horns of this rhino exhibit in the Nature Museum in Rotterdam and get away before the police arrived on the scene.

The RRC has pictures of quite a number of rhino specimens in museums around the world, to document their provenance and history. In appropriate cases, we have removed all data on the location of these items to avoid drawing attention to their existence. However, in the past few months all horns in museums have become guarded treasures, no longer attractive to thieves.

THE RHINOCEROS IN *MAMMALS OF THE WORLD*

The *Handbook of the Mammals of the World* published its second volume dealing with Hoofed Mammals last year. It includes a long and well-illustrated section on all recent species of rhinoceros authored by Dr Eric Dinerstein. With kind permission of author and publisher, the full text of the rhino section (without the photos) can be accessed through the RRC website, [here](#).



OUR SPONSORS

The board and staff of the Rhino Resource Center gratefully acknowledge the support of our two main sponsors, the International Rhino Foundation and SOS Rhino.



[INTERNATIONAL RHINO FOUNDATION](http://www.internationalrhinofoundation.org)



[SOS RHINO](http://www.sosrhino.org)

We receive regular donations from Save the Rhino International and Rhino Carhire.
Thank you very much.



*The Rhino Resource Center is a registered charity.
We need your assistance to provide our service to all rhino lovers worldwide.*



BIBLIOGRAPHY OF FOSSIL RHINOCEROTIDAE

The [first part of this bibliography](#) published in 2009, was recently followed by a [second supplementary part](#) (by two active editors of the RRC, Emanuel Billia and Dan Ziegler). Published in the *Studii Si Cercetari* (Geology-Geography) in Bistrita, these useful and comprehensive works should be consulted by anybody interested in the non-recent species of rhinoceros.

PACHYDERM 50 IS NEAR

Pachyderm, the journal of the IUCN/SSC specialist groups for African Elephant, African Rhino and Asian Rhino, published in Nairobi, will soon bring out its fiftieth issue. It will contain a commemorative section as well as its usual range of research articles and notes from the field. The journal is open access and available on two websites: [here](#) or [here](#).

Started in 1983 as a modest Newsletter of the African Elephant and Rhino Group, the journal has been a favourite medium to publish work done in the range states of these pachyderms. It has a wide range of very interesting articles on a wide variety of subjects relevant to elephant and rhino research and management. Look out for number 50, to come soon.

RRC WEBSITE REPORT 2011 (BY WILLEM VAN STRIEN)

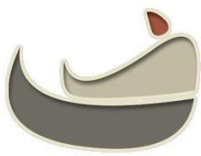
Over a million pages viewed in one year

In 2011, the RRC had a total of about 280,000 visitors (180,000 unique visitors) that viewed just over 1 million pages or PDF's. In total we transferred about 600 GB of data. In comparison, we had 240,000 visitors and transferred 460 GB of data in 2010.

About 170,000 visitors went directly to the PDF's we have online, indicating their huge importance for our website. All PDF's are indexed by Google as almost all have been OCR-ed (Optical Character Recognition transfers old scans to readable texts). Visitors look at about 5 pages during each visit and stay on the site for an average of 3 minutes. This is a very good metric and indicates our visitors find real value on our website.

Our images have been accessed 2,700,000 times; these are not all 'human' visitors but also Google (and other search engines) indexing our database. Google likes our content-rich website and has indexed 38,176 pages of the RRC (we have about 40,000 different pages in total).

Although posting on the forums is not very frequent they add value, and we have over 1,300 members.



RHINO TAXONOMY

At the end of last year, taxonomists Colin Groves and (the late) Peter Grubb published a major revision of ungulate taxonomy. The section on rhinos is available (in most regions) in [Google Books](#).

Groves and Grubb (2011) recognize five genera, six species divided into 17 subspecies as recent taxa in the Rhinocerotidae. They are listed here. For those interested in the subject, this book is a publication not to be missed. Details are [here](#).

ASIAN SPECIES

1. Rhinoceros unicornis
2. Rhinoceros sondaicus
 - a. R.s. sondaicus
 - b. R.s. annamiticus
 - c. R.s. inermis
3. Dicerorhinus sumatrensis
 - a. D.s. sumatrensis
 - b. D.s. harrissoni
 - c. D.s. lasiotis

AFRICAN SPECIES

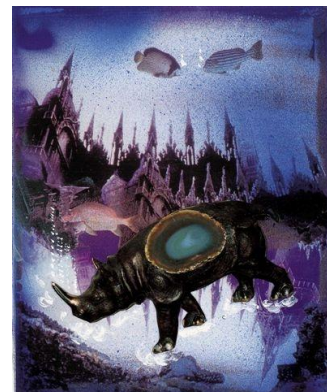
4. Diceros bicornis
 - a. D.b. bicornis
 - b. D.b. chobiensis
 - c. D.b. minor
 - d. D.b. occidentalis
 - e. D.b. michaeli
 - f. D.b. brucii
 - g. D.b. ladoensis
 - h. D.b. longipes
5. Ceratotherium simum
6. Ceratotherium cottoni

RHINOS IN MODERN ART

Many recent authors have focussed their attention on the rhinoceros, often to stimulate thoughts about their plight in the wild. Two such artists have contributed pictures of their work to the RRC as one medium to spread the news.

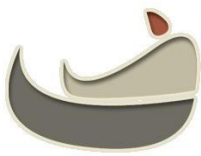


“Unicornis” by Madeline von Förster, 2009.
More information on this painting [here](#)



“Subrhino” by Gigi Bon, 2010.
More information is found [here](#).

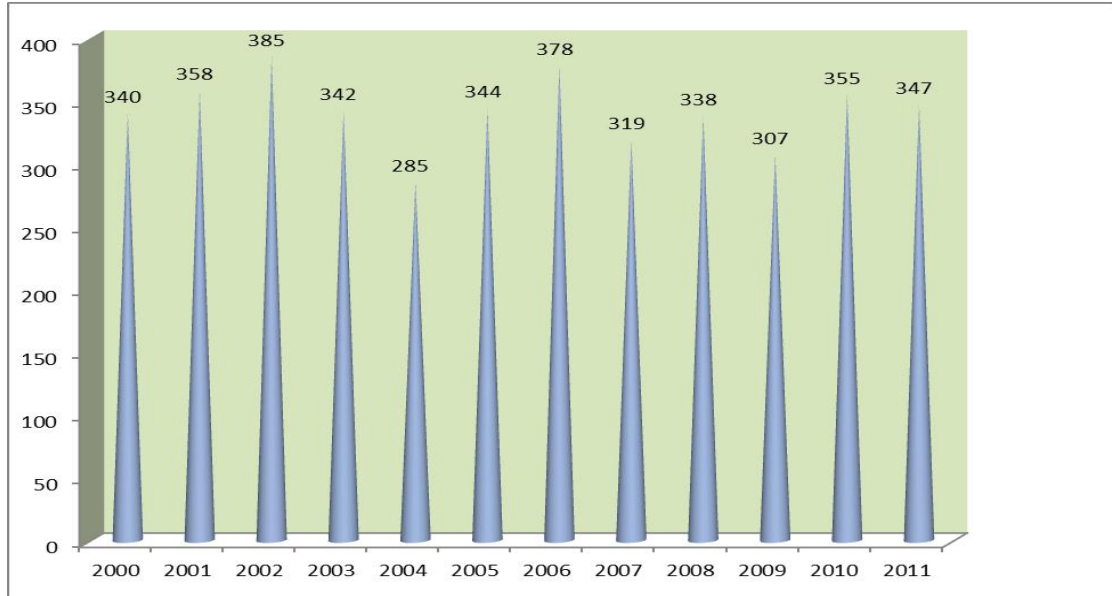
The RRC of course has a wide sample of rhinos in current and recent art through the kind coöperation of [Mr Emilio Gargioni](#). Over a hundred items from his collections are displayed.



RHINO LITERATURE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The RRC keeps a daily check on new publications, reports, dissertations and newsletters. During the first twelve years of this century, a total of 4,100 references have been added to our database.

This translates to 340 per year, or just under *one per day*.



Number of references in the *Rhino Resource Center* for the years 2000 to 2011.

The information contained in these publications is phenomenal and astonishing, ranging across subjects and topics. The RRC provides many of these – and next will try to harness all these data into digestible chunks to improve access and research.

CONTENTS OF THE RHINO RESOURCE CENTER

The development of the Rhino Resource Center is shown in the table here.

RRC	2011 February	2011 May	2011 August	2011 November	2012 February	ANNUAL INCREASE
References	14,391	15,013	15,530	15,855	16,219	+ 1828
PDF files	10,126	11,731	13,200	13,785	14,795	+ 4669
Images	2,405	2,442	2,615	2,667	2,745	+ 340
Messages	763	775	788	803	811	+ 48

I thank all authors and publishers who have helped us by sending copies of books and papers. All contributions are [acknowledged on the website](#).



NEW LITERATURE (finalised 31 January 2012)

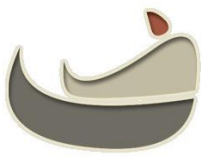
In this quarter (November 2011 to January 2012), we have added 364 new references, to bring the total number of items in the database to 16,219. Of these, no less than 14,795 or 91 percent are available as PDF, and many are searchable in the notes.

Below I have listed new entries published in the 21st century in four categories: General (all species), African rhinos, Asian rhinos and Fossil rhinos.

If you are interested in one of these titles, always check the [RRC website](#) first, because most are available there.

NEW HISTORICAL AND GENERAL PUBLICATIONS

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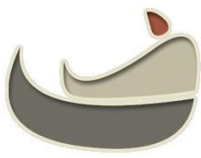


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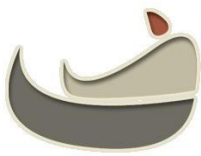
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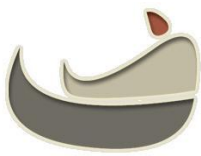
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