

Catalogue No.

784

Collected by

C VD HEEVER

Determined by

S DE WAAL

Coll. Date

4 SEP 1973

Grid Ref.

2726Ca3

Specimens

1

Sex

?

Store Location

Aa8

Name/s

XENOPUS LAEVIS LAEVIS

Locality

SMALDEEL (1245) HOOFSTAD

Habitat

WATER

Material

STORED IN 70% ALCOHOL

Measurements & Stratigraphy

103 39 39

Remarks

groter navorsingsprojekte. Volgens spesifieke opdragte, wat deur middel van die toetspaneel aan die rekenaar oorgedra word, kan die rekenaar nou die tydrawende en soms byna onmoontlike taak van sortering en rangskikking van inligting doen. Dit is nou moontlik dat data gerangskik en kopieë gedruk kan word volgens die kurator se behoeftes, byvoorbeeld die alfabetiese rangskikking van eksemplare volgens naam, versamelaar, landstreek, provinsie of habitat. Dit is hierdie vermoëns van die rekenaar wat rekenaardokumentasie in 'n ander sfeer plaas wanneer dit vergelyk word met die konvensionele sisteem.

In antwoord op 'n navraag soos: "Is daar enige eksemplare van die bedreigde akkedis, *Cordylus giganteus* (ouvolk) in die herpetologie-versameling?" kan 'n positiewe antwoord vinnig sonder die hulp van die rekenaar gegee word.

Maar dikwels volg die volgende vraag: "Sal u asseblief so spoedig moontlik vir my 'n lys (met alle beskikbare data) van al die koggelmanders wat in die Vrystaat versamel is, aanstuur?" Weer eens is die antwoord bevestigend en sonder meer tik die rekenaar die lys volledig, volgens behoeftes, en word die aangevraagde inligting onmiddellik versend.

So kan die funksies van die rekenaar verder uitgebrei word tot die biblioteek, museum-administrasie en selfs die voorbereiding van navorsingsmanuskripte en illustrasies van enige aard. In geheel gesien kan die rekenaar net lei tot die verdere verhoging van die produktiwiteit van die Nasionale Museum. Dit lyk dus of die Museum 'n stap in die regte rigting gedoen het, al lig party mense hulle wenkbroue! Soos die ou gesegde lui: "'n Skilpad moet sy nek uitsteek om vorentoe te beweeg."

THE ROCK ELEPHANT SHREW

C.D. Lynch



Rock elephant shrew.

The elephant shrews are characterized by a long proboscis (hence the vernacular name of elephant shrew), large eyes and very long legs. Collectively they are grouped in the family Macroscelididae. Presently four genera are recognized and although the family is distributed throughout most of Africa, only one genus, namely *Elephantulus*, is represented in the Orange Free State. While this genus consists of

10 species only one, *E. myurus* (Rock elephant shrew; Klipklaasneus), occurs in the province. However, the Rock elephant shrew is also found in Zimbabwe, the Transvaal, western Mocambique, eastern Botswana, and in the Richmond (Cape Province) and Estcourt (Natal) vicinities. The range of the Rock elephant shrew therefore shows an entirely eastern southern African distribution pattern.



Skull of a Rock elephant shrew.

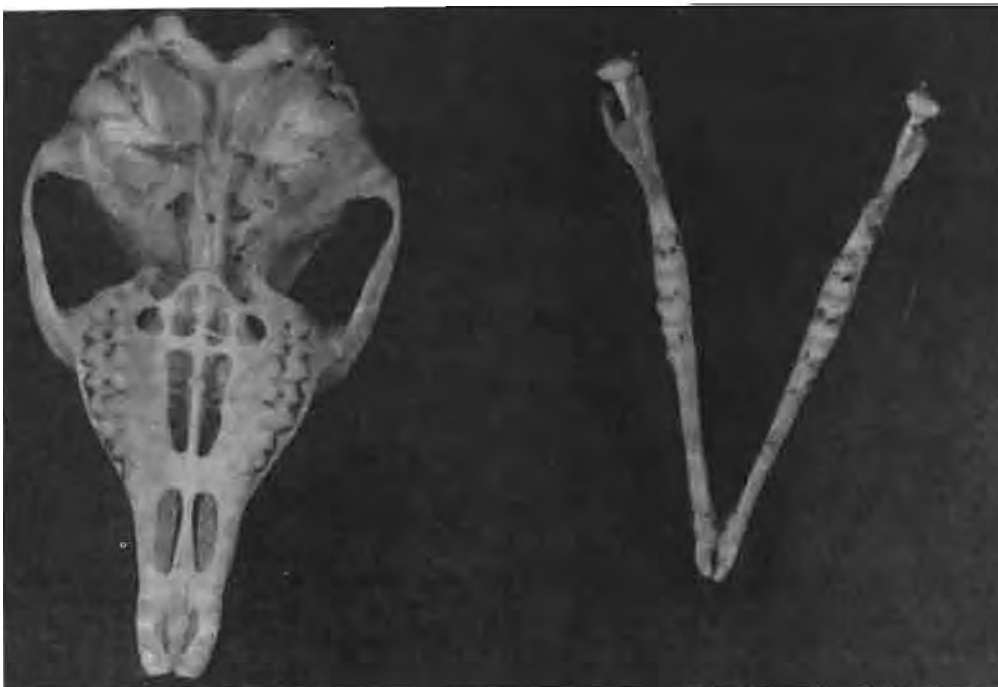


Proboscis of a Rock elephant shrew.

Within its range the Rock elephant shrew is, as one of its vernacular names denotes, confined to large rocky outcrops and hill slopes. As they are mostly active during the day, they can be seen hopping about these rocks and jumping from one boulder to another over gaps of up to one metre. They can also be heard communicating by means of a short, high-pitched shriek and also by rapping the basal ventral portion of their tails and drumming their hindfeet on rocks. Rock elephant shrews are preyed upon by snakes, owls and carnivores such as the Cape fox and Small spotted-cat.

The Rock elephant shrew's teeth clearly indicate that it is a member of the order Insectivora (hence one of its vernacular names, shrew) and their diet includes termites, ants, caterpillar larvae and grasshoppers.

Two young are usually born per year (range 1 to 2) during the period August to March. The young become fully grown at presumably the age of 10 weeks and then have the following mean dimensions : total length, *i.e.* from tip of tail to tip of nose, 255 mm; tail length, 136 mm; hindfoot, length 38 mm; ear length, 23 mm; mass, 64 g.



Teeth of a Rock elephant shrew.