

## ➤ STATUS AND ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

Formerly the elephant used to occur in large numbers in all its suitable habitats. But now, the animal is confined to a few areas with adequate protection, although it is still fairly abundant in Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia and Mozambique. In Nigeria, the animal is fairly abundant in Yankari Game Reserve (In April, 1980, it is reported that about 200 elephants, were sighted in one area along main river Gaji running through Reserve this, incidentally, was the time when His Excellency the President Shehu Shagari was visiting the Reserve) the marked decrease in numbers of elephants has been due to overhunting in such of ivory.

## ➤ ECONOMIC CONSIDERATION

- Ivory highly prized.
- Properly cooked, capable of providing much needed protein.
- Elephants can be very destructive to crops.

## ➤ ORDER PERISSODACTYLA:

### GENERAL TAXONOMIC CHARACTERS

- Ungulates with the exception of the even – toe tapirs odd toed of the New World.
- Animals with one or three hoofed digits.
- Skull elongated with abrupt drop at back.
- Weight of the animals is borne by the central digits, with the main axis of the foot passing through the third digit – which is the longest in all four feet.
- First digit absent.
- Both sexes lack horns with true bony cores.

In Africa, there are two families in the Order: Equidae (Asses and Zebras) and Rhinocerotidae (Rhinoceroses).

➤ **FAMILY EQUIDAE GENERAL TAXONOMIC CHARACTERS**

- Weight of the body borne by fore digits found on each foot.
- Both sexes lack horns.
- Skin comparatively thin.
- Body size medium to fairly in appearance large. Horse to Donkey like.
- Number of teeth vary from 40 – 42.

DF: I: 3/3, c1/1, pm: 3 – 4 /3, m: 3/3 = 40 to 42

- Long necks with a mane at the top.
- Tail fairly long with its hairs reaching middle of legs (bird)
- The family Equidae contains one genus – Equus:

➤ **Genus Equus**

**GENERAL TAXONOMIC CHARACTERS**

The Genus Equus is comprises four existing distinct species (in Africa).

- Genus: Equus (Wild Ass and Zebras)

General Taxonomic Characters:

Items	<i>E. buchelli (Burchell's Zebra)</i>		
Behaviour	Social animal; live in family groups of up to 20 animals; may families of animals, graze very close to the ground, graze drink water daily; mostly diurnal. Noisy animals; run fast and for long distances (64kmph) find of rolling in sand and dust		
Status and Economic consideration	Population reduced in its original southern range, but otherwise, population fairly healthy skin highly prized which has caused overshooting in certain areas, where found in large numbers near human settlements, can be desctructive to crops		

Items	<i>E. buchelli (Burchell's Zebra)</i>		
General Taxonomic character	Sh: 1.3-1.4m (50-55"); WT24 - 320kg (500-700lbs), horse-like features, very broad and strongly curved on the hindquarters) black or dark stripes; extend very low on the sides of stomach; no distinct broad white patch on the		

	stomach like in E. Grevyi and E. Zebra; Short and narrow ears.		
Distribution	Ethiopia Sudan Somalia, Uganda Zaire, Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, Botswana, Swaziland, Angola, S. African and Namibia.		
Habitat Preference	Found in both Sahel and Guinea Savannahs- mostly found in open grass-lands and also open wooded area.		
Feeding Habit	Grazer occasionally browser		
Reproduction	Litter size of 1 young; Gestation period of about 360 days; Life span of around 25-30 years.		

Items	<i>E. africanus (Wild Zebra)</i>	<i>E. grevyi</i>	<i>E. zebra (Mountain)</i>
Behaviour	Social animals living in herds of up to 30 individuals although sometimes live single; good mountain climbers. Retiring to the mountain during the day and come down to the valleys to graze at night; can go long without water; capable of carrying heavy long loads at long distances; when fighting use	Social animals living in herds of up to 14 animals stallions may be solitary, where their range overlaps with that of the Burchell's zebra, mixed herds are found. Less dependent on water than Burchell's zebra. Fighting posture same as Wild Ass.	Gregarious living of 7-12 animals. Social animal. Herds of 50 animals has been recorded. Stallions may be solitary. Good climbers. Graze in midnight and late afternoon. Can do without water for a

	their teeth and leg		longtime.
Status and Economic consideration	Population has decreased markedly due to competition stock interbreeding with domestic donkey. Animal has also been overhunted.	Population has decreased because of overshooting for meat and especially skin to make various ornamental articles (belts, wallets ladies handbags, etc) skin much valued and where too many can be destructive to crops.	Population very much reduced by increasing human settlement and can now be found in restricted wildlife areas.

Items	<i>E.africanus (Wild ass)</i>	<i>E. grevy's Zebra</i>	<i>E. zebra (Mountain)</i>
Gen TA. Char.	A wild ass resembling domestic ass WT. 260kg SH: 1.1 metres (43); big head; long ears, body colour uniform buff or grayish; muzzle pale; dark dooral line or dark shoulder strip; Legs sometimes striped.	Largest of the zebra SH: 105m, WH: 105m, WT: 430kg, prominent broad rounded ears, head long and narrow brown patch on narrow muzzle, narrow numerous stripes (black and white) reaching to the hooves; white patch on rumps.	SH: 1.2-13m WT: 270kg. Short plump head with haired ears, black numerous narrow bands across rump ("grey and white belly lets stripe)
Geographical Distribution	Ethiopia and Somalia	Northern Kenya or southern and Somalia	South Africa, Angola
Habitat Preferences	Mountain area valleys and open grass Plains.	Sub desert steppe and dried Bushland i.e.	Dry stony mountains and

		Sahel Savannah	desert (Namibia)
Food Habits	Grazer	Mostly grazer, occasionally browsers	Grazer
Reproduction	Gitter size of 1 young; gestation period of 348-377 days; life span at 25 to 30 years	Litter size of I young; Gestation period of 345 390 days; life span of round 25-30 years	Litter size of I young period of around 345-3 life span of about 30

➤ Family: Rhinocerotidae

General Taxonomic Characters:

- Body massive and heavily built
- Skin very thick
- Three digits on each foot
- Both sexes with two horns
- On the snout (nose)
- Short neck and broad chest short and pillar like legs in the genus *Diceros* (land also Rhinoceros)
- Upper lips prehensile (i.e. adapted to grasping objects) especially by unwrapping around object-same as the tongues of the giraffe)
- Weight to 3.5 tons – i.e. the second largest land mammals is contained in the family Rhinocerotidae
- Number of the teeth vary from 24-34 D.F: I- 1-0/1-0, C. 0/1-0, PM: 3-4/3-4, M:3/3 in Africa there are two general in the family: *Ceratotherium* and *Diceros*

Items	<i>C. simum</i> ( <i>Square-lipped Rhinoceros</i> )		
General tax. Character	Second largest land mammal, WT: 2.3-3.6 metric tons. HB: 3.6-5m; SH: 1.6-2m; lighter colouration than hook-lipped rhinoceros upper lip squared; distinct hump above neck; head longer than hook-lipped thin.		
Distribution	<i>Swaziland and South Africa. Formally also in NW Uganda and SW Sudan-although their</i>		

	<i>presence now well documented</i>		
Habitat Preference	<i>Guinea Savannah on open grasslands and open woodlands.</i>		
Feeding Habit	Mostly grazer and also browsers on low lying shrubs.		
Reproduction	Little size of I young. Gestation period of 17-18month, life span of about 50 years.		

Items	<i>C. simum</i>		
Behaviour	More sociable than hook-lipped Rhinos, live in groups of up to 10 individuals. very placid and even tempered; Charge very rarely; fairly sedentary; re turn every day to selected location-heaps; feeding morning and evening; sight poor but sense of smell and hearing acute.		
Economic Status	Population very much reduced in their former range due to overhunting for horn, and skin which are said to contain medicinal values; horn is said to have aphrodisiac properties. Human settlement has reduced its range.		



Items	<i>Dicerce bioornis</i> ( <i>Hook-lipped Rhinoceros</i> )	( <i>Black Rhinoceros</i> )
General tax. Character	Smaller than square lipped rhinoceros; HB; 3,3-3.75M, SH: 1.4-1.5m, WT: 1-1.8 metric tons; upper lip pointed and prehensile. Darker colouration	
Distribution	Cameroun, Chad Central African Republic Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique Swaziland Angola, Botswana, Malawi.	
Habitat Preference	Guinea Savannah especially in Acacia Commihota types of vegetations, also the mountains up to 11,500 feet high.	
Feeding Habit	Mostly browsers, feeding on twings of Acacas, Eupborbias, e.t.c) rarely graze Commiphoras	
Reproduction	Litter size of I young, gestation period of 17-18 months; life span of about 50 years.	

Items	<i>D. Biicornis</i>	
-------	---------------------	--

Behaviour	<p>Male solitary, pairs formed by mother and calf; male and female pair briefly during mating season; fairly fast for their bulk size can run up to 45KPH at short distance; poor sight good sense of smell and excellent hearing; drink daily; except in sub-desert areas where depends on succulent leaves. Animal like mud and dust. Rather ill tempered and sometimes charge without being provoked.</p>	
Status and Economic consideration	<p>Population very much reduced in their former range due to over hunting for skin and horn which are said to have medicinal and aphrodisiac properties respectively. Otherwise numbers more numerous than square-lipped Rhino.</p>	