

ANOTHER NEW BAT RECORD FOR THE KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

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In aid of a zoogeographical survey of the mammals of Transvaal, Republic of South Africa, the National Parks Board of Trustees kindly allowed the author to study the reference collection of small mammals from the Kruger National Park, during August 1974. This collection at Skukuza formed the basis of a checklist for smaller mammals of the Kruger National Park (Pienaar 1964, 1972).

The identification of one specimen of the genus *Rhinolophus*, a female numbered Chir. NKW 86, and labelled as *R. hildebrandti* Peters 1878, appeared suspect. The *R. hildebrandti* - *R. fumigatus* complex presents considerable systematic problems. The specimen was subsequently compared with other study material in the Transvaal Museum and elsewhere. It was collected in a hollow boabab tree at Machindudzi (grid reference 2231CB) in the north-eastern corner of the Park. Measurements are: TL = 95; T = 30; HF = 9; E = 24; F.arm = 51 mm; mass = 14 gram.

Dr R. H. N. Smithers (Director of Rhodesian Museums), kindly compared this specimen with comparable ones in his study collection. He agreed (*in litt.*) with our own view that as the greatest breadth of the horseshoe is 9 mm, and allowing for slight shrinkage, the specimen can safely be regarded as belonging to the *R. hildebrandti* - *R. fumigatus* complex. As the sella of the specimen in question is haired, and as it has comparatively big ears, the possibility of it being *R. clivosus* Cretsychmar, 1828, which has a naked sella and relatively short ears, can be ruled out (Hayman and Hill 1971). With a fore arm length of 51 mm the specimen is too small to be *R. hildebrandti*, and can thus be safely regarded as *R. fumigatus*.

Rüppell's horseshoe bat has not been recorded in the Kruger National Park before and represents the first record for the Transvaal. Hayman and Hill (1971) list its distribution as the Cape Province, northward through Angola and Zambia, northeastward to Ethiopia and westward to Senegal. In addition, Smithers (*in litt.*) finds this species not uncommon in the southeastern parts of Rhodesia, and it can thus be expected to occur elsewhere in Transvaal.

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