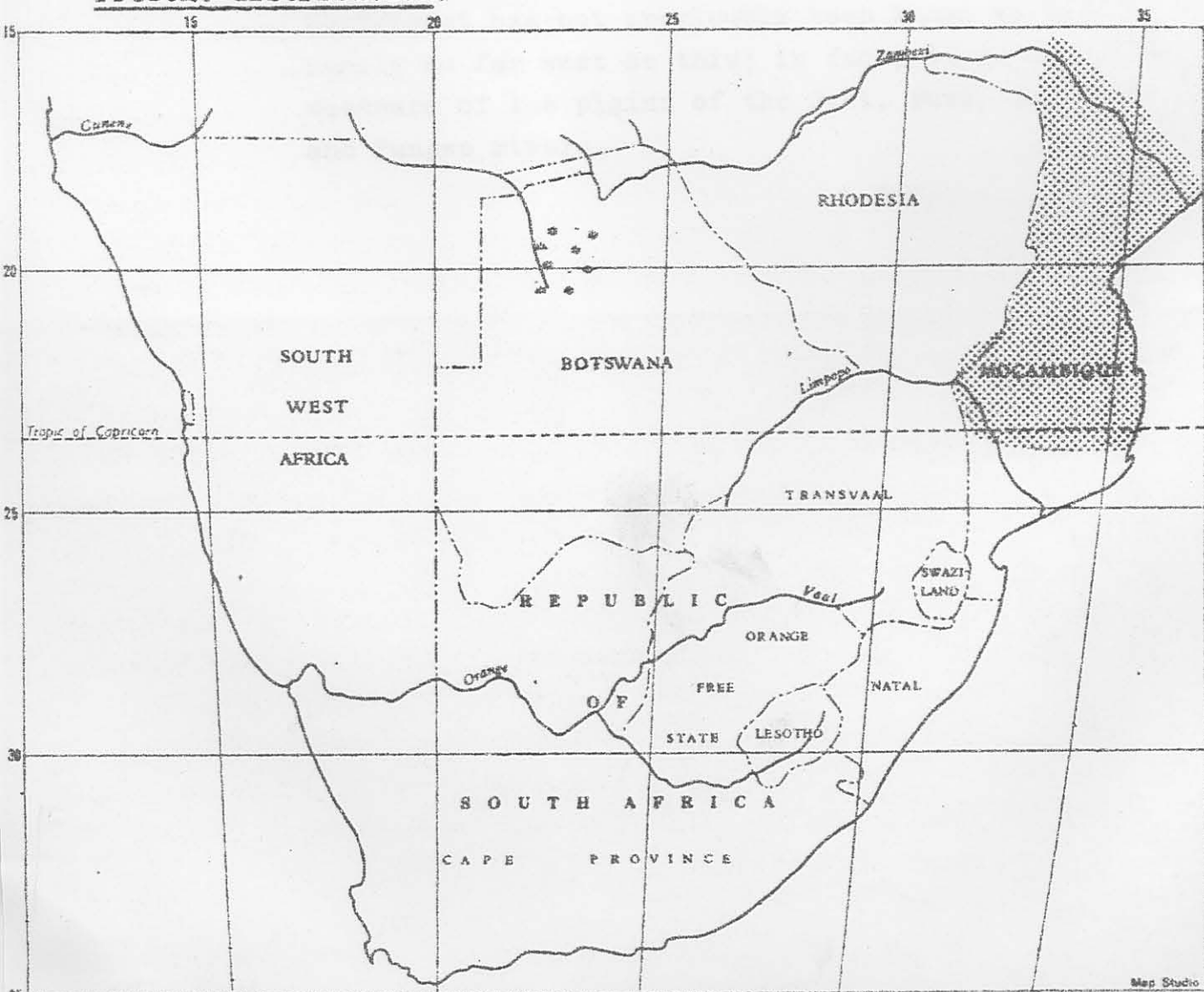


Past distribution:

Alcelaphus lichtensteini (Lichtenstein's Hartebeest)

Present distribution:



Alcelaphus lichtensteini (Lichtenstein's hartebeest):

The first records of Lichtenstein's hartebeest are probably those of Peters (1852) who mentions single specimens at Sena, Inhacũxa and Boror and herds of many hundreds on the grassy plains of Mocambique.

Most other records also refer to Mocambique as the most southern limit of their range. These include:

Kirk (1864): common during the dry season in the forests of Shupanga and Inhamunha.

Sclater and Thomas (1894-5): between the Save and the Zambezi rivers.

Ward (1896): north of the Gaza country to the mouth of the Zambezi river.

Kirby (1899): near Chiringoma, east of the Urema river; along the Urema and Mwanza rivers.

Findlay (1903): along the Urema river; between the Mwanza and Mwardzi rivers; near Gorongosa.

Selous (1908): large numbers near the Pungwe river in 1891.

Vasse (1909): near the Pungwe river; near Guengeré on the Pungwe; the vicinity of Chicolé; Nioronga on the Pungwe; Sena.

Glynn (1926): near the Dinga-ding river.

The range of the Lichtenstein's hartebeest in Rhodesia was much more restricted than in Mocambique. According to Bryden (1899), Lichtenstein's hartebeest was to be found in the greater part of the low-lying coastal country between the Zambezi and Save rivers in Mocambique, and most probably also south of the lower course of the latter river. He also records it as fairly common on both sides of the central and upper courses of the Save river, to a point 50 miles south of Mount Wedza in Rhodesia. A few stragglers were to be found west of the central Sabi to about the vicinity of the Lundi river.

Millais (1899) confirms Bryden's Rhodesian records when he encountered Lichtenstein's hartebeest near the Bubyé river. He writes: "Lichtenstein's Hartebeest has not previously been known to extend nearly so far west as this; in fact, it is seldom found westward of the plains of the Sabi, Busi, Gorangosi and Pungwe rivers.

I found a small troop west of the Nuanetsi, and again another near the Lundi."

FitzSimons (1920) records it from north of the Nuanetsi and Sabi rivers of southeastern Mashonaland and up through the Pungwe valley to the Zambezi river.

The occurrence of the species in the Transvaal lacks confirmation. The following records mention Lichtenstein's hartebeest or merely hartebeest that could have been Lichtenstein's:

Van Oordt (1894-5) mentions both the hartebeest and the "bastaardhartebeest" in the old Pongola Game Reserve. By the latter he means the sassaby and by the former probably Lichtenstein's.

Haagner (1920) includes the northeastern Transvaal in the earlier distribution of the species.

Shortridge (1934) also includes northeastern Transvaal as well as the central and eastern parts of Rhodesia and Mocambique as far as the Pungwe and Sabi rivers in its range. He quotes Selous as giving the Lundi river as its western boundary and mentions the possibility of its distribution as far south as Swaziland in the past.

Present distribution:

The present distribution of Lichtenstein's hartebeest includes parts of Mocambique and Rhodesia, and to a large extent coincides with its past distribution according to :

Fajardo (1953): the Gorongosa National Park.

Ellerman et al. (1953): Portuguese East Africa and Rhodesia.

Fraser (1958): the southern lowveld of Rhodesia.

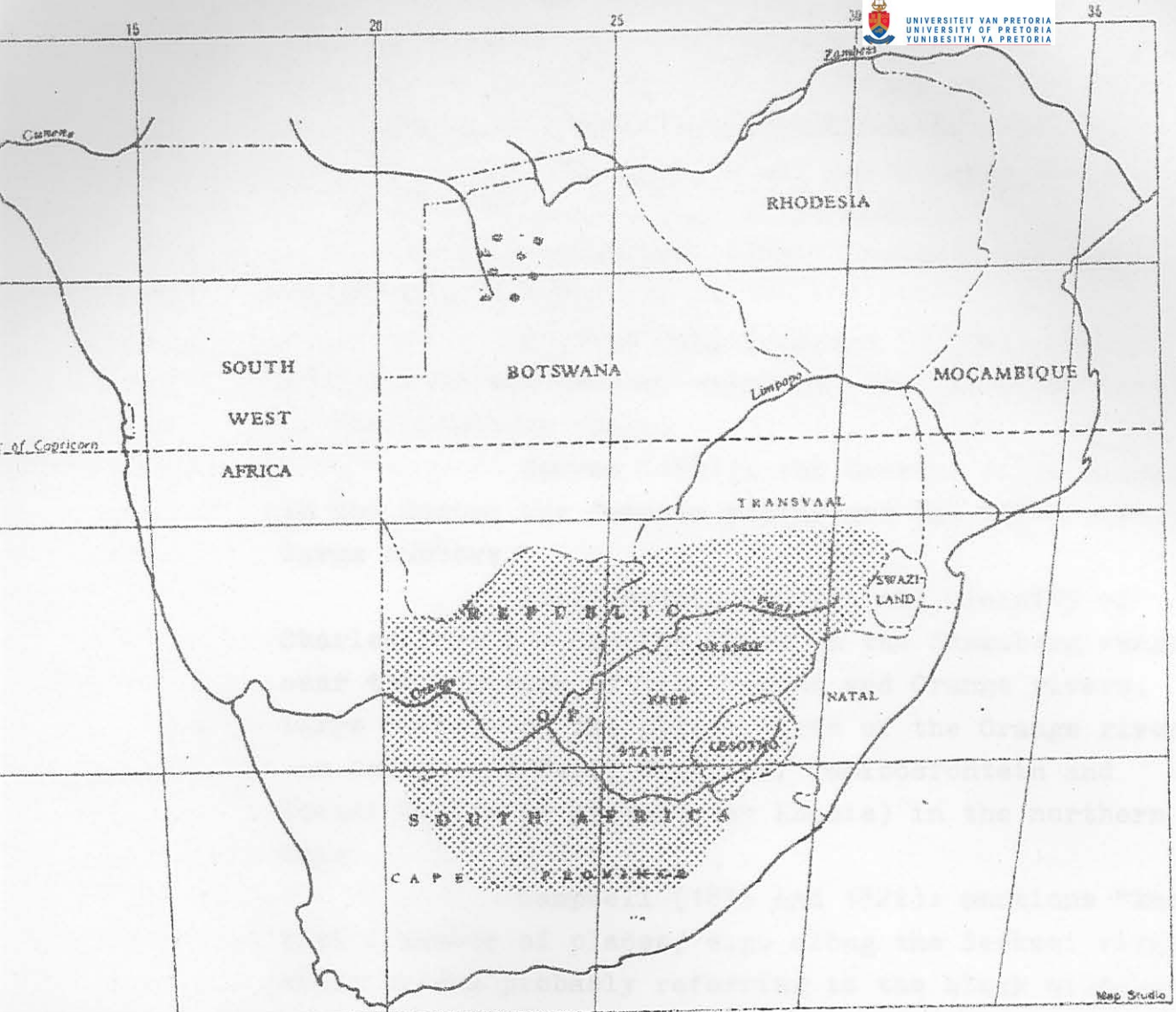
Child and Savory (1964): a limited area in southeastern Rhodesia, between the Lundi and Sabi rivers.

Sidney (1965): in southern and southeastern Rhodesia, a few north of the Lundi in the Ndanga Tribal Trust Land and perhaps a few in the Gona-re-Zhou Game Reserve; in Mocambique north of latitude 24°S, especially abundant in the coastal savannah country between the Save and Pungwe rivers; protected in Gorongosa National Park.

Tinley (in litt.): common and widespread in the area described by Sidney (1965); also occurs in the Zambezi delta where the mosaics of forest and savanna meet the great flood plains.

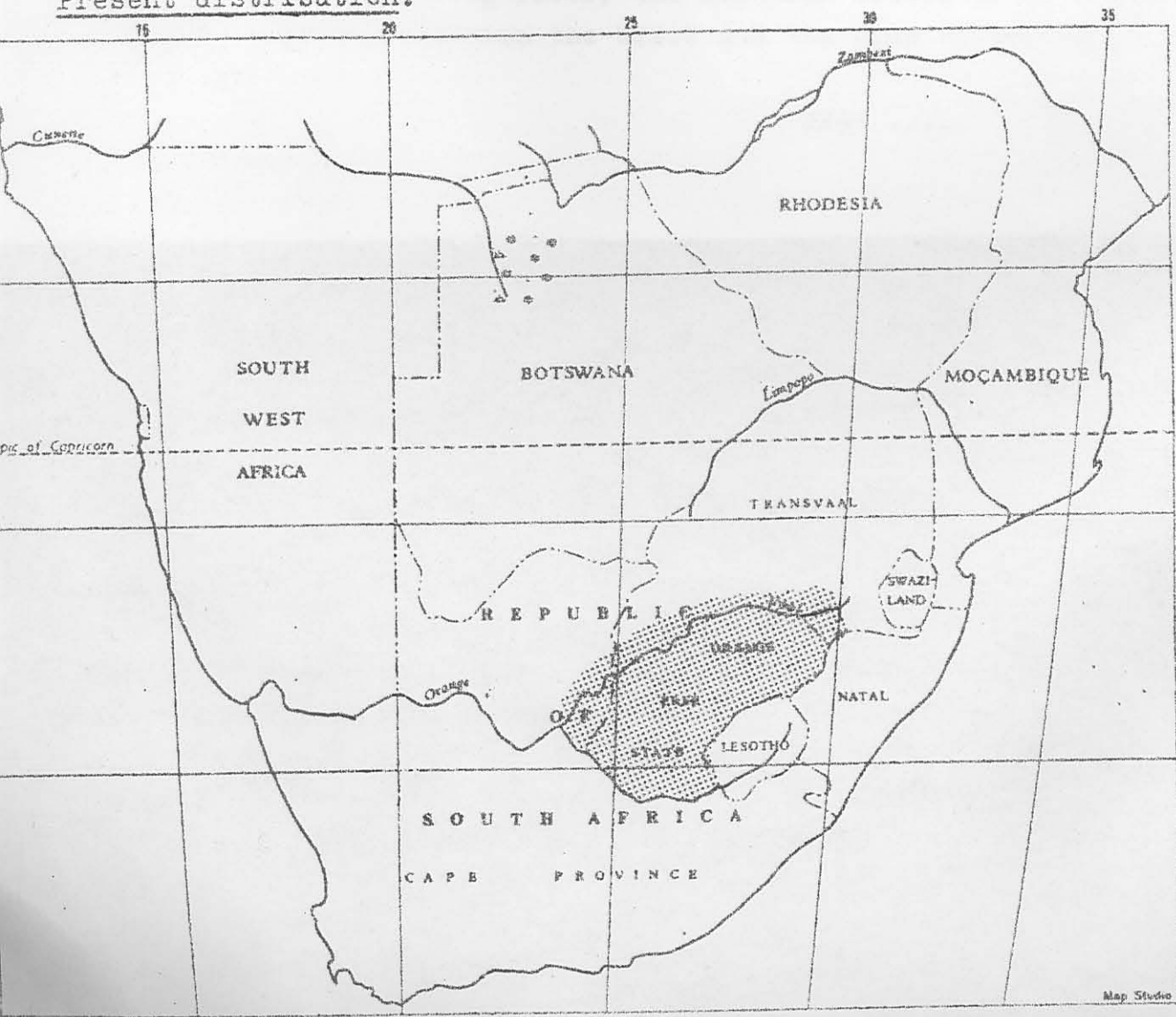
Change in distribution:

If Lichtenstein's hartebeest ever ranged into the eastern or northeastern Transvaal as alleged, it has long since vanished. In other areas, although local changes are possible, the overall area of distribution remains the same to a large extent.



Past distribution: Connochaetes gnou (Black wildebeest)

Present distribution:



Connochaetes gnou (Black Wildebeest):

Cape Province:

According to Roberts (1951), the black wildebeest had an earlier distribution throughout the Karoo districts of the Cape Province and northwards to the Orange and Vaal rivers. The following records support this statement:

VC.102, Cape Archives: Swellengrebel records the species from the vicinity of the Kariëga, Brak, Melk and Platte rivers in the central Karoo in 1776.

Sparrman (1789): single animals as well as large herds in the vicinity of Camdeboo and Agter Bruintjieshoogte as well as between Cookhouse and Somerset East.

Van Reenen (Kirby, 1958): on his way to the survivors of the wreck of the Grosvenor in 1790, mentions "wildebeeste" near the Thomas river in the vicinity of the present-day Thomas River station; this is in the Cathcart division and is probably the most eastern record of the gnu in the Cape.

Le Vaillant (1796): between the Great and Little Fish rivers.

VC.104, Cape Archives (1796-8): the vicinity of the Seekoei river and Renosterberg, north of the Sneeuwberg range.

Barrow (1801): the Seekoei river vicinity in the Karoo; the Camdeboo plains and the Tarka area in large numbers.

Lichtenstein (1812): the vicinity of Charles Port (= Carolus Poort in the Sneeuwberg range); near the junction of the Seekoei and Orange rivers; large numbers on the plains north of the Orange river in Griqualand West; Witwater, Taaibosfontein and Koossi Valley (= present-day Khosis) in the northern Cape.

Campbell (1815 and 1822): mentions "knoos" from a number of places, e.g. along the Seekoei river where he was probably referring to the black wildebeest, but when recording large numbers from near Old Lattakoo, from between the Mareetsane and Molopo rivers and near the Mashowing river, the question arises if he distinguishes between the black and the blue wildebeest.

Burchell (1822): Griqualand West; very large herds on an extensive plain in the vicinity of the Sneeu-berg range, i.e. between Great Tafelberg and Agter Sneeu-berg.

Thompson (1827): the plains along the Seekoei river north of the Sneeu-berg range in large numbers.

Smith (Kirby, 1940): large numbers on the plains near Gordon's Fonteyn (in the present-day Noupoot division) during August of 1834.

Pringle (1835): the vicinity of the Winter-berg and along the Baviaans river in the present-day Bedford division.

Steedman (1835): the Karoo plains in the vicinity of the Seekoei river.

Harris (1841): the Sneeu-berg area.

Baines (Kennedy, 1961): near Burgersdorp; between Colesberg and the Great Brak river in the vicinity of the Suurberg range in 1842.

Backhouse (1844): large numbers between Cradock and Colesberg.

Bunbury (1848): the Bontebok Flats in the present-day Queenstown division.

Methuen (1848): the area north of the Stormberg mountains, at that time known as the Nu-Hantam, in the present-day Burgersdorp division. (The area that Methuen calls the Hantam district should not be confused with the Hantam in the western Cape, since he mentions the Tebus mountains to the south and crossed the Orange river at Norvalspont soon afterwards.).

Cumming (1850): near the Brak river in the vicinity of the Tebus mountain; large numbers near the Seekoei river; between Beer Vley (in the Brak river) and the Orange river; large numbers on the plains of the present-day Colesberg, Philipstown, Hopetown and Britstown divisions.

Hamelberg (Spies, 1952): near the present-day Hanover in 1855.

Dobie (Hattersley, 1945): between Cradock and Queenstown in the years 1862-6.

Holub (1881): herds numbering from ten to eighty near Konana (= Kunana) in the present-day Mafeking division.

Stanford (Macquarrie, 1962): records the "Berg Gnu" from Griqualand East in earlier times,

already extinct at the time of writing his reminiscences (1885).

Bryden (1899): the Karoo plains in incredible numbers before the advent of the scab sickness (brand-siekte) that killed off many thousands; he states: "The range of this wildebeest never seems to have extended eastward in the Cape Colony beyond the Kei River."

Lichtenstein (1812), Burchell (1822), Smith (Kirby, 1939) in 1834, Harris (1841), Cumming (1850) and Holub (1881): the Cape north of the Orange river.

Sclater (1900): mentions a remote possibility of a few gnu in Gordonia.

Shortridge (1934): an earlier distribution at least as far south as Bedford and Somerset East.

Shortridge (1942): "There appear to be no definite traditions of the former occurrence of Black Wildebeest in Little Namaqualand, but they doubtless extended at least as far west as Bushmanland." He mentions that north of the Orange the black wildebeest used to extend at least as far west as Gordonia.

Natal:

As shown previously, the black wildebeest probably did not occur east of the Great Kei river towards Natal. Two possible records however, exist of the occurrence of black wildebeest in western Natal bordering on the Orange Free State. They are the following:

Gardiner (1836): journeying from Port Natal to the Quathlamba Drakensberg via Donnybrook, after crossing the upper Umzimkulu river, records black wildebeest as follows: "..... several hartebeests and elands, as also a herd of gneu, eleven in number."

Anderson (1888): large numbers on the open plains that flank the northern and western boundaries of Natal just below the Drakensberg range in previous years.

Neither Bryden (1899) or Shortridge (1934) however, mention the black wildebeest in Natal; those mentioned by Gardiner and Anderson could, in the same way as the blesbok, have crossed the Drakensberg from the Orange Free State in search of pasture.

Orange Free State:

Smith (Kirby, 1939): immense numbers in the southern Free State in the vicinity of the Caledon river; near the O.F.S.-Lesotho border (the present-day Boesmanskop-Mafeteng area); between Thaba Nchu and Bloemfontein; the vicinity of the Riet and Modder rivers, all in 1834.

Arbousset and Daumas (1846): the area comprising the present-day Golden Gate National Park and its surroundings; the present-day Bethlehem, Harri-smith, Ficksburg and Senekal districts, all in 1836.

Harris (1841): between the Vaal and Donkin (= Vals ?) rivers; near the Vet river; between the Vet and Modder and between the Modder and Orange rivers.

Backhouse (1844): in large numbers between Thaba Nchu and Bethany during the years 1830-40.

Methuen (1848): just north of Norvalspont in the Orange river.

Merriman (Varley and Matthew, 1957): between Smithfield and Bloemfontein in 1848.

Smith (1849): writes as follows of the two wildebeest species: "Both species of Gnu inhabit, during a certain period of the year, the extensive grassy plains which exist some considerable distance to the northwards of the Vaal River, and at another period a portion of each at least, advances to the southward to feed upon the vegetation which occurs in that direction after the fall of the summer rains. Both species advance simultaneously as far as the southern branches of the Orange River, but on reaching those, the species here figured (the blue wildebeest) ceases to advance, and the common species (Catoblepas Gnu) passes by itself into the Colony."

Cumming (1850 and 1904): large herds on the Orange Free State plains during the years 1843-49, especially between the Vaal and Vet rivers and between Bloemfontein and the Orange river.

Sanderson (1860): near the upper Vals river and in the vicinity of the Renoster river in 1851.

Leyland (1866): between the Riet and Orange rivers and between the Riet and Modder rivers.

Buckley (1876): most parts of the Orange Free State.

Aylward (1878): the Harrismith, Bethlehem, Kroonstad and Rhenosterspruit districts during the years 1850-60.

Anderson(1888): the Harrismith vicinity.

Collins (1907): describes the two great hunts organised on the farm Bains Vley near Bloemfontein in 1860 and 1862, during which large numbers of gnu were killed.

Brocklebank (1909): between 7-8000 on the farm Langkuil to the west of Ventersburg.

Haagner (1920): the Kroonstad and Winburg districts.

Capell (1901-42): the farm 'Paradys' near Sydenham (Bloemfontein) in 1906.

Shortridge (1934): considers it extinct in the wild state, but still occurring in semi-protected herds on farms in the province.

Transvaal:

Harris (1841): along the Chonapas river (the Mcoi river according to Lydekker, 1908) when travelling from the Magaliesberg to the Vaal river. Harris writes: "As if by magic, the brindled gnu had suddenly given place during the last three days, to the common, or white-tailed species, and not another specimen occurred during the remainder of our journey."

Smith (1849): north of the Vaal river on the highveld plains.

Buckley (1876): the Transvaal plains.

Holub (1881): black and blue wildebeest grazing together in the vicinity of Christiana, western Transvaal.

Anderson (1888): a few in the Barberspan - Rietvlei area, where in earlier times thousands were to be found.

Oates (1889): the Transvaal highveld.

Sclater (1900): the Transvaal highveld.

Bryden (1899): the southern part of the Transvaal, but seldom more than 30 miles north of the Vaal river.

FitzSimons (1920): formerly occurred in the southern half of the Transvaal.

Haagner (1925): at the time of writing only on O.F.S. farms, especially in the Winburg, Kroonstad and Hoopstad districts; a few in the northern central Cape and a few in the Bloemhof district.

Present distribution:

Cape Province:

Bigalke (1945): 215 black wildebeest in the Cape Province.

Ellerman et al. (1953): extinct as a true wild animal; protected at Groote Schuur and also on the De Beers farms near Kimberley.

Bigalke and Bateman (1962): in small numbers in a protected state on a number of Cape farms in the Bedford, Gordonia, Herbert, Kimberley and Philipstown divisions; Groote Schuur paddocks; the De Beers Company farm near Kimberley; the Mountain Zebra National Park, Cradock.

Gilfillan (1966): 37 in the Mountain Zebra National Park.

Brand (1965): 38 in the Mountain Zebra National Park; 8 at Groote Schuur; 37 in the De Hoop Game Reserve; 8 in the Nduli (Umtata) Reserve; 139 on farms in the Kimberley division; 2 on Herbert division farms; 9 on Vryburg farms; 7 on Prieska farms; 4 in the Victoria West division; 15 in the Herbert division; 2 at Addo; 30 at Loxton; 3 at Paarl and 9 at Philipstown; total number for the Cape Province, 311.

De Graaff (in litt.): 87 in the Mountain Zebra National Park in March, 1969.

Natal:

Bigalke (1945): 17 in Natal.

Vincent (1962): "Long disappeared from Natal in a feral state. Reintroduced into the Giants Castle Game Reserve in 1956 and 1957 and into the Royal Natal National Park in 1958."

Brand (1965): 18 in the Royal Natal National Park; 19 on the Coleford Nature Reserve; 38 in the Giants Castle Game Reserve; total for Natal Parks, 75.

Bigalke (1965): restocking on Natal farms may have taken place since a farm in the Estcourt district has a few.

Bourquin (1966): 16 in the Royal Natal National Park (introduced); 37 in the Giants Castle Game Reserve (introduced); very rare in the Coleford Nature Reserve.

Orange Free State:

Bigalke (1945): 755 in the Orange Free State.

Van Ee (1962): herds of over 50 in the Odendaalsrust, Kroonstad, Harrismith and Dewetsdorp districts; smaller herds in the Bloemfontein and Hoopstad districts; the Willem Pretorius Game Reserve near Allemanskraal.

Garson-Steyn and Garson-Steyn (1964): farms in the Harrismith and Brandfort districts; the Willem Pretorius Reserve.

Brand (1965): 2 in the Welkom Game Park; 38 in the Golden Gate Highlands Park; 370 in the Willem Pretorius Reserve; 60 in the Shannon district; 113 at Bultfontein, 364 at Bloemfontein, 5 at Brandfort, 120 at Odendaalsrust, 89 at Harrismith, 15 at Koffiefontein, 42 at Kroonstad, 15 at Heilbron and 23 in the Boshof district, totalling 1256 for the entire province.

Gilfillan (1966): 46 in the Golden Gate Highlands National Park.

De Graaff (in litt.): 139 in the Golden Gate National Park in March, 1969.

Transvaal:

Bigalke (1945): 61 in the Transvaal.

Kettlitz (1955) 120 in the entire Transvaal, occurring in the S.A. Lombard Nature Reserve, on the farm Welgelegen in the Ermelo district, on the farm Waterval in the Witbank district, on the farm Heuningkrans in the Wolmaransstad district as well as in various zoological gardens.

Meester (1955): 44 in the S.A. Lombard Nature Reserve.

Kettlitz (1962): 7 herds totalling approximately 150 head in the Bloemhof, Wolmaransstad, Ermelo, Belfast, Johannesburg and Potgietersrust districts.

Brand (1965): 18 at Badplaas; 11 in the Percy Fife Reserve; 76 in the S.A. Lombard Nature Reserve; 8 in the Dirkie Meyer Park Springs; 7 in various zoological gardens; 2 in Delareyville, 8 in the Wolmaransstad, 48 in the Ermelo and 1 in the Lydenburg district, totalling 119 for the entire Transvaal.

South West Africa:

Farmers probably introduced the black wildebeest on their properties since Brand (1965) reports 7 in the Gibeon and 5 in the Okahandja districts.

Change in distribution:

As indicated, the black wildebeest previously ranged over the Karoo plains of the Cape Province, and throughout the entire Orange Free State and southern highveld of the Transvaal. In the Cape north of the Orange river it occurred as far as the Mafeking area, and in Natal below the Drakensberg range.

At present it still occurs in small numbers in the Cape Province, the Orange Free State and the Transvaal as shown but only on a few farms or in game reserves and in either case is strictly protected.

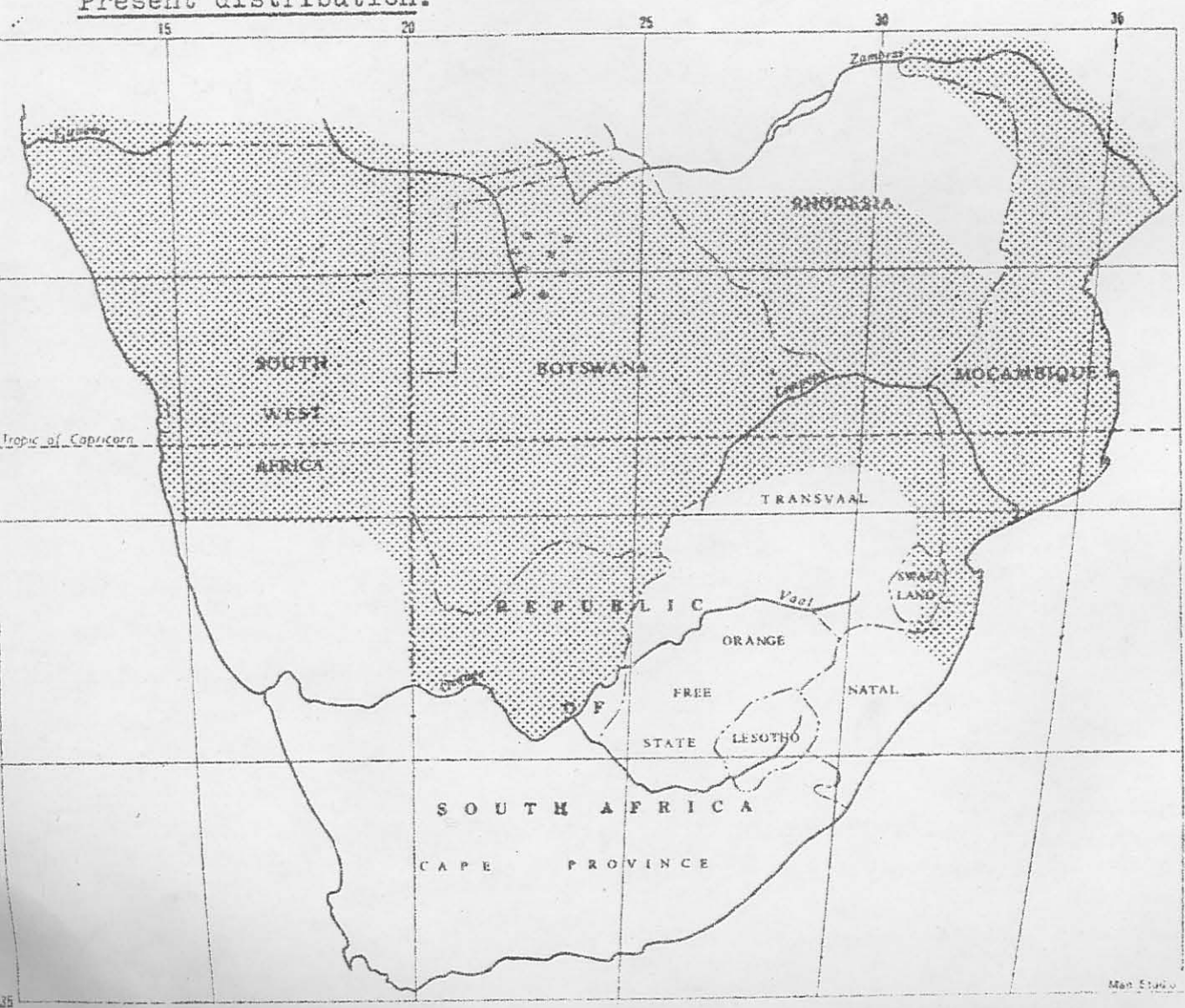
Where its population in the past was referred to in terms of hundreds of thousands, there are only approximately 1700 - 1800 in the entire southern Africa as shown by Brand (1965) - a disconcertingly low number.



Past distribution:

Connochaetes taurinus (Blue wildebeest)

Present distribution:



Connochaetes taurinus (Blue wildebeest):

Cape Province:

According to Shortridge (1934), the blue wildebeest has probably never established itself anywhere south of the Orange river, although other authors, e.g. Cumming (1850) and Bryden (1890), mention a few straying across this river occasionally. Truter and Somerville probably encountered it for the first time in the Litakun (present-day Kuruman district) vicinity in 1801. This was the 'Kokoon' illustrated by Daniell and described by Barrow (1806) from near Kosi Fountain (present-day Khosis).

Campbell (1815 and 1822): the 'Knoo' that he records from near Kuruman and from the Mareetsane and Molopo rivers may have included the blue wildebeest since he does not distinguish between the blue and black species.

Burchell (1822): near Kosi Fountain and the vicinity of the Kuruman river.

Moffat (Wallis, 1945): shot a 'Kokong' near the Setlagodi river in the northeastern Cape in the 1830's.

Smith (Kirby, 1939 and 1940): the Kuruman area; near the Langeberg and Korannaberg; near the Mashwing, Mareetsane and Molopo rivers; the present-day Stella and Mafeking districts in the year 1834.

Harris (1841): near Kuruman; near Loharon in the Chooi desert (Chooi or Chue, according to Burchell's map, was probably situated on the Thlakgameng river).

Methuen (1848): first recorded after passing Ramah on the Cape-Orange Free State border; also in the vicinity of the Molopo river.

Cumming (1850): south of the Orange river when travelling from Colesberg to Beer Vlei in the Brak river (approximately on the boundary between the present-day Britstown-Hopetown divisions); he mentions both species, but states that the black occurred in large numbers whilst the blue was very scarce; large numbers north of the Orange river near the junction of the Riet and Vaal rivers; from Loharon to Great Chooi, as well as along the Mareetsane river.

Holub (1881): between the Harts and the Vaal rivers; the plains near Kunana and Platberg near the present-day Warrenton.

Anderson (1888): near the Great Chue Pan, near Kuruman and near Taung.

Bryden (1893) writes that in former times ".....it was even found south of the Orange upon the northward plains of the Cape Colony." The last blue wildebeest on the Mareetsane river had disappeared a few months before his arrival there in 1890, but it was still to be found in small numbers along the western Molopo river.

Agricultural Correspondence Files (H 1, Cape Archives), 1905-1908: the number of blue wildebeest fluctuated with the available pasture in the Kalahari and Botswana; occurred in the Gordonias, Mafeking, Vryburg, Kuruman and Hay divisions.

Natal:

The blue wildebeest in Natal was probably limited to Zululand, whence it is mentioned by Buckley (1876), Drummond (1875) and Baldwin (1894).

Areas mentioned in Zululand are the vicinities of the Black Umfolozi river, the Bombo Flats and Tongaland. Ritter (1955), describing the great hunt in the area between the White and Black Umfolozi rivers led by Shaka in August 1819, mentions wildebeest amongst the animals killed.

Orange Free State:

Backhouse (1844): near the Caledon river in the southeastern Free State.

Sanderson (1860): a few near Vegkop in the northern part of the province in 1852.

Leyland (1866): between the Riet, Modder and Orange rivers in large numbers.

Aylward (1878): in the Harrismith, Kroonstad, Renosterspruit and Bethlehem districts and in the "middle veld" area.

Holub (1881): ranged all over the Orange Free State.

Collins (1907): large numbers in the Orange Free State.

Lydekker (1908) writes as follows: "When

they first crossed the Gariep or Orange river into what is now the Orange River Colony, the Boers came across vast herds of an antelope which they recognised as a near relative of their well-known wildebeest of the plains to the south." He quotes Cumming as saying that a few of these brindled gnu occasionally crossed the Orange river into the northern Cape Province, but that this river formed in the main the southern limit of the distributional area of the species.

A large number of authors mention only "wildebeest" in the Orange Free State, but do not specify which species and either may have been intended, e.g. Wahlberg (Gyldenstolpe, 1934), Bisset (1875), Baines (1877), Roche (1878) and others.

Transvaal:

It is generally accepted that the blue wildebeest used to occur practically throughout the Transvaal in suitable habitat. This is borne out by the following records:

Smith (Kirby, 1940): near the Marico river in the Mosega (present-day Zeerust) district; near the Hex river in the Rustenburg district and near the junction of the Marico and Toelani rivers in 1835.

Trigardt (Le Roux, 1966): near the Soutpansberg range and Sand river in northern Transvaal during the years 1836 and 1837.

Harris (1841): near the Marico river; along the Crocodile river near the Magaliesberg range.

Smith (1849): north of the Vaal river in the Transvaal.

Erskine (1869): the Lydenburg district near the Elands and Sorgobiti rivers.

Glynn (1926): near Pretorius Kop in the present-day Kruger National Park in the 1870's.

Gillmore (1878): the Klerksdorp vicinity and between Hartebeesfontein and Lichtenburg, where he mentions "numerous wildebeest" without specifying which species was intended.

Holub (1881): records the blue wildebeest for the first time between the Vaal and Harts rivers in the northern Cape-western Transvaal area; near the Mooi river in the Ventersdorp district; near Christiana and from the Kunana vicinity near the Cape border.

Anderson (1888): the vicinity of the Marico river.

Oates (1889): along the Crocodile river towards the present-day Thabazimbi district.

Hofmeyr (1890): the Soutpansberg district in 1865.

Baldwin (1894): mentions "wildebeeste" only from near Skoonspruit in the Potchefstroom district.

Rendall (1895): between the Sabi and the Crocodile rivers in the eastern Transvaal in large numbers.

Van Oordt (1894-5): the old Pongola Game Reserve.

Sclater and Thomas (1894-5): from the Vaal river northwards to the Zambezi.

Chapman (1900): the eastern Transvaal lowveld.

Stevenson-Hamilton (1917): the Sabi and the Shingwedzi Game Reserves, approximately 3,000 occurring in the former and 2,000 in the latter in 1914.

Botswana:

According to Selous (1881) and Bryden (1890 and 1899), the blue wildebeest was to be found along the eastern border of the Kalahari, in Ngamiland and in the eastern part of northern Botswana.

The following records circumscribe local distribution to a greater extent:

Bain (Lister, 1949): between Gaborone and Molepolole and in the vicinity of the latter in the years following 1816.

Methuen (1848): along the Notwani river in the vicinity of Sechele's kraal.

Holden (1855, quoting McCabe): the Mababe flats.

Livingstone (1857): the vicinity of Kolobeng, near the Makarikari pans and the Chobe marshes.

Price (Long, 1956): near Kanye in the years 1854-83.

Leyland (1866): the Kolobeng vicinity and Nchokotsa near the Zouga (= Botletle) river.

Stabb (Tabler, 1967): near the Ramaquabane river in 1875.

Gillmore (1878): near Mashue (between Lephepe and Shoshong).

Holub (1881): near the Notwani river; the Makarikari salt pans; the Shua salt pan; Nataspruit and the Nata river; the Mababe flats.

Anderson (1888): Molepolole; northern and eastern Botswana; near the Quito, Chobe, Cubango and Touga (=Botletle) rivers.

Gillmore (1888): the Kalahari and northern Botswana.

Oates (1889): between Mahalapye and the Tauone (= Notwani ?) river.

Noack (1889): mentions Schinz collecting in the area around Lake Ngami and in the Kalahari, amongst other, also blue wildebeest.

Selous (1893): the junction of the Notwani and Crocodile rivers; the Mababe flats and the edge of the Chobe swamps.

Baldwin (1894): along the Shashi and Botletle rivers; near the Massouey (= Shua ?) salt pan; Sicombo's country (=Shoshong) and near Kanye.

Schultz and Hammar (1897) : the eastern shores of the Makarikari pans.

Selous (1907): near the Chobe swamps.

Hodson (1912): the Mababe flats; between Gat-garra and the Chobe river; near Metsibothloko, Matomabi, Mpse and Kumakum; the northeastern edge of the Mababe flats; near the Makarikari pan and the Mababe river.

Mocambique:

Kirk (1864): near Shupanga on the Zambezi.

Erskine (1875): along the Limpopo river at the tropic of Capricorn ; along the Zavora river in Gasaland.

Kirby (1899): the Urema-Zangwe marsh vicinity; along the Mwanza and Urema rivers; throughout the Urema and Pungwe flats.

Jeset (1899): the country surrounding the Pungwe flats.

Findlay (1903): the Cheringoma area along the Pungwe, Jungwe and Madingwedingwe rivers; the Gorongosa area.

Selous (1908): the Pungwe river vicinity.

Vasse (1909): near Nioronga and Guengere in the Pungwe area.

Maugham (1910): still occasionally found on the southern outskirts of Shupanga.

Glynn (1926): Gasaland ; along the Pungwe river; near the Dinga-ding (= Madingwedingwe ?) river.

Rhodesia:

Probably due to its occurrence in large numbers practically throughout Rhodesia in the past, it is mentioned by relatively few authors. This applies to a large extent to the commoner species such as the impala and duiker, where their daily occurrence, often in large numbers, led to a sort of 'familiarity breeds contempt' attitude by the diarist, whilst scarcer species are regularly mentioned. The following do however mention the blue wildebeest:

Elton (1873): between the Ramaquabane and the Satsuke rivers; along the Limpopo river between the confluences of the Nuanetsi and Olifants rivers with the Limpopo.

Holub (1881): the junction of the Chobe and Zambezi rivers.

Oates (1889): between the Inkwisi and Sakasusi rivers; between the Mangwe and Shashani; along the Semokwe river in the Tati vicinity; near the Ramaquabane river.

Bryden (1899): common in Rhodesia.

Selous (1907): southeastern Matabeleland at the junction of the Ingesi and Lundi rivers.

Selous (1908): along the Pungwe river in eastern Rhodesia.

South West Africa:

The "auerossen" of Hop (Molsbergen, 1916) described in 1761 as follows: ".....welk dier naar een ordinairen os sweemt, uitgenoomen dat hetselve grooter en asgraauw van couleur, hebbende wyders een kleijne kop en korte hoorens, alsmeede lang gekruld haijr op de borst en tussen de hoorens, mitsgaders een lange baard, gelijk de bocken; dit Dier is seer snel in 't loopen,", were the first blue wildebeest encountered just north of the Orange river in Great Namaqualand.

Brink and Rhenius (Mossop, 1947): near the present-day Grundorn on Braus in 1761.

Pienaar (Theal, 1964): near Walvis Bay in 1793.

Alexander (1838): near the Tansberg.

Galton (1853): the Otjimbingue vicinity; near the Omatako mountain (probably the Waterberge); near Tunobis (Otjimbinde vicinity).

Andersson (1856): the bed of the Swakop river; near Onanis; near Barmen; the vicinity of Schmелens Hope, Tincas, the Otjiombinde river and Kobis.

Andersson (1861): near Ombolo fountain in the Omaruru river.

Baines (1864): between Walvis Bay and Otjimbingue; near Kobis fountain; in the valley of the Nossob river and near the Olifants river.

Green (Petermann, 1866): near the Cunene river.

McKiernan (Serton, 1954): between Biib and Otavi; near the Etosha pan; near the White Nossob and at the junction of the Shoshongo and the Okavango, all during the years 1874-9.

Donat (1899): near Okokoja and between Okokoja and Namutoni.

Anderson (1888): the Caprivi.

Shortridge (1934): fairly widespread in the whole territory; widespread in Ovamboland; large numbers in the vicinity of the Etosha pan in the dry season; widespread and in large numbers in the Grootfontein district; numerous in the western, central and eastern Caprivi; Otjiwarongo district; Okahandja, Gobabis, Gibeon and Aroab districts; southern limit of its range in South West Africa being the Aroab district according to Shortridge.

Present distribution:

Cape Province:

Power (1954): migration from the Kalahari occasionally results in fairly large numbers in the Mafeking and Vryburg divisions.

Rand (1955): estimates the provincial population of blue wildebeest in the Cape as approximately 50 animals.

Eloff (1959): the Kalahari Gemsbok National park.

Bigalke and Bateman (1962): small numbers occur in the Bedford, Gordonia, Herbert, Kimberley and Philipstown divisions and large numbers in the Kalahari Gemsbok Park.

Natal:

Vincent (1962): the Umfolozi, Hluhluwe and Mkuzi Game Reserves as well as adjacent lands.

Bigalke (1965): extinct on farm lands in Natal.

Bourquin (1966): very common in the Mkuzi, Hluhluwe (4000 in 1965) and Umfolozi (2000 in 1965) game reserves.

Transvaal:

Kettlitz and Verschuur (1958): approximately 400 in the Hans Merensky Nature Reserve.

Meester (1960): the Loskop Dam Nature Reserve.

Kettlitz (1962): occurs outside the Kruger National Park in the largest numbers in the Pilgrims Rest district; almost extinct in the Barberton district; a few still occur in the Rustenburg, Waterberg, Potgietersrust, Soutpansberg and Letaba districts, giving a total of about 10,000 in the Transvaal.

Pienaar (1963): throughout the Kruger National Park, approximate numbers between 14,500 and 14,600.

Hirst (1964): the Timbavati Private Nature Reserve.

Kirk (1966): the Mlilwane Game Sanctuary and one other small area of Swaziland.

De Graaff (in litt.): 14,846 in the Kruger National Park in 1969.

Mocambique:

Fajardo (1953): common in the Gorongosa National Park.

Sidney (1965): still occurs in large numbers in the Nyasa, Cheringoma, Buzi, Alto Limpopo and southern Inhambane districts but scarce elsewhere; extinct at Tete but a few occur at Chiôco; occurs in Chemba and northeastern Barue but tends to become rare in southern Barue; large numbers in Gorongosa and eastwards to the coast; large numbers on either side of the

Save river but rare along the coastal regions of Govuro and Vilanculos; occurs in Massinga but extinct in the coastal region surrounding Inhambane; large numbers in the central Sul do Save between the Limpopo and Changane rivers; rare to the south in the Magude, Bilene and southern Chibuto and extinct in the coastal regions; a few survive in the Lourenco Marques district on the Tembe plains.

Tinley (in litt.): common in Gorongosa on the micropersistent flood plain grasslands; has never occurred on the south Zambezi Delta, i.e. the Marrromeu area.

Rhodesia:

Fraser (1958): the southern and western lowveld of Rhodesia as well as in pockets in the Hartley, Gwelo and Charter Native districts.

Child and Savory (1964): found mainly along the southern and western borders, but introduced elsewhere, e.g. into the Robert McIlwaine and Matopos National Parks.

Sidney (1965): numerous in the southern districts of Nuanetsi, Gwanda and Matobo, and in the western districts of Bulalalima-Mangwe, Nyamandhlovu and Wankie.

Botswana:

Hill (1942): Kuke pan, Kaotwe pan, Damara pan, the Mababe flats, N'Kate and the Makarikari pans.

Kay (1962): Nyie pan (= Paradise pan) near Kanye and also the Mababe flats.

Van Eyssen (1964): the vicinity of the Makarikari pan and Lake Ngami.

Sidney (1965): fairly widespread in most of Botswana except the southeastern parts; occurs near the Chobe river, in Ngamiland, in the Tuli Block district, in the Kalahari and in the territories of the Bamangwato, Bakwena and Bangwaketse.

Kirsten (1966): the Moremi Game Reserve.

Tinley (1966): fairly common in the Moremi Game Reserve during the dry season; move out of the Reserve in the wet season to as far afield as the northwestern area of the Makarikari pans, towards the Mababe flats and the Chobe Game Reserve.

Knobel (1967): the Chobe Game Reserve.

Campbell (1968): the Central Kalahari Game Reserves, especially in the southern part where thousands still occur.

Winchester-Gould (1968): throughout Botswana, especially in the Moremi Wildlife Reserve, the Makarikari pan and the Kalahari desert.

Child (1968): throughout northeastern Botswana, i.e. the Makarikari pan area, near the Botletle river, Maun, the edge of the Okavango swamps, the Mababe depression, Kasane and Panda ma Tenga.

Smithers (1968): widespread and common throughout Botswana except in the eastern sector south of Macloutsi.

Von Richter (1969): rare in the northern Ghanzi Block, the Kalkfontein, Makunda and Nojane areas, southwestern Kalahari, but numerous in all the other areas .

South West Africa:

Bigalke (1958): a few occur in the Gibeon and Gobabis districts, more in the Tsumeb, Grootfontein and Outjo districts and in Game Reserve 2; at certain times many thousands occur in Ovamboland; seldom occurs west of the Kaokoveld border; found in the Okavango Native Territory and the Caprivi.

Moon (1964): the Etosha Game Reserve.

Baxter (1967): the Etosha Game Reserve.

Sidney (1965): follows Shortridge (1934).

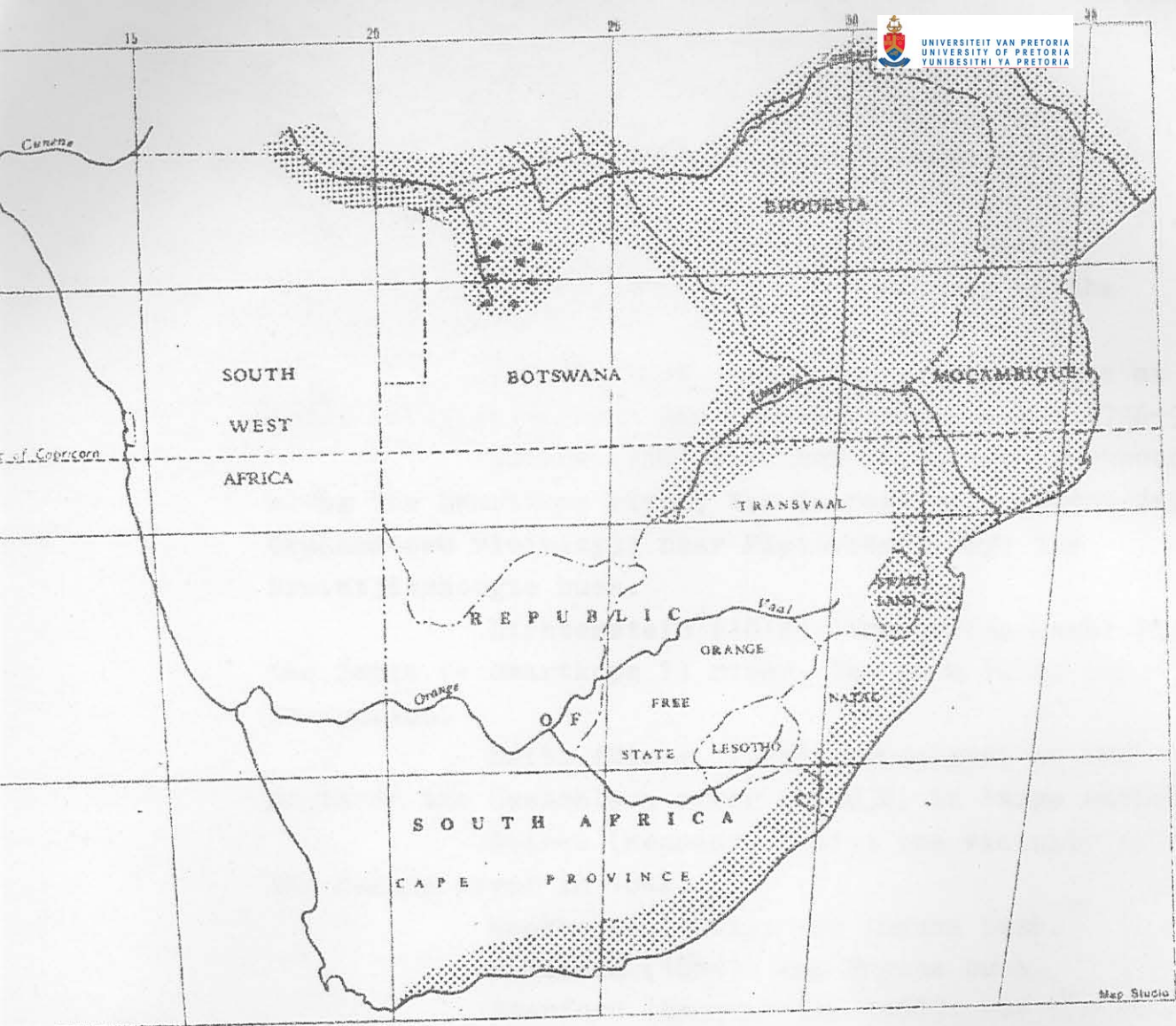
Change in distribution:

The blue wildebeest in its wild state has disappeared completely from the Orange Free State and most of the Transvaal. In the latter it only occurs in game reserves or where protected on farms in the northern and eastern Transvaal lowveld.

It still occurs in the northern Cape but in smaller numbers, except perhaps in the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park. In Botswana its distribution has undergone little change except in the eastern parts bordering on the Makloutsi.

In South West Africa it has moved northwards from the immediate vicinity of the Orange river to the Gibeon district.

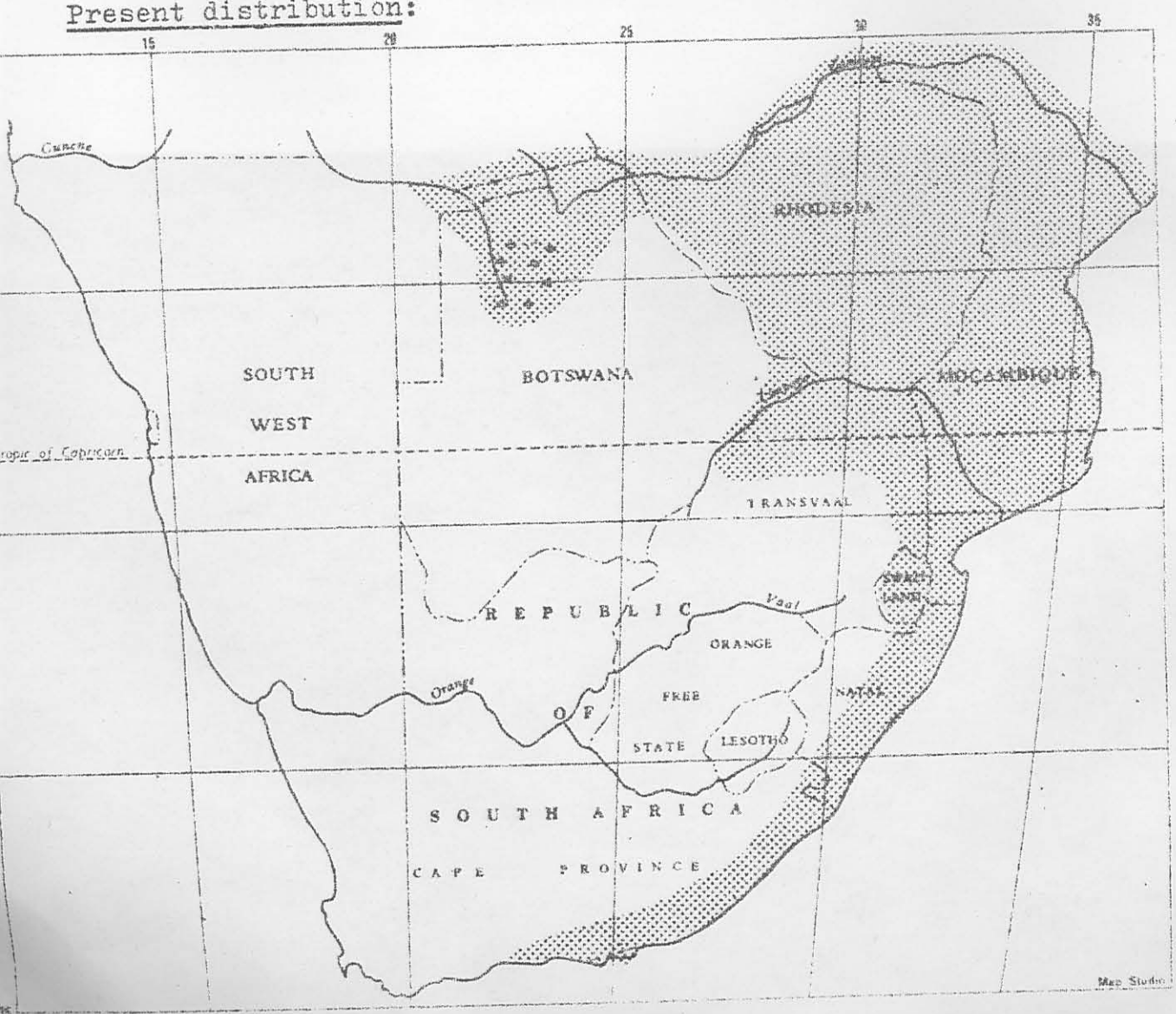
The Rhodesian and Mocambique distributions are more or less the same as in the past, except for minor changes due to farming, fencing or hunting.



Past distribution:

Tragelaphus scriptus (Bushbuck)

Present distribution:



Tragelaphus scriptus (Bushbuck):

In the chapter on the bushbuck by Kirby in Bryden (1899), he considers it as inhabiting four regions and differing in appearance in each. He distinguishes between the bushbuck of the Cape, one from Natal and the east coast, one from the eastern and northern Transvaal and Gazaland and one from the Chobe river. Since however, very few of the other older authors distinguished between subspecies, this investigation will be at species level only as regards the bushbuck.

Cape Province:

VC.102, Cape Archives: "bosch bokken" are recorded by Swellengrebel in 1776 from the vicinity of the Little Fish river in the present-day Somerset East division.

Mentzel (Mandelbrote, 1944): "forest buck" recorded as fairly common in "Houteniquas Land", probably the George or Knysna districts, in 1780.

Sparrman (1789): the Outeniqua bush and Grootvadersbos where fairly common; scarce around or near Cape Town.

Le Vaillant (1796): Grootvadersbos, Keurbooms river and Diep river, a tributary of the Keurbooms river.

VC.104, Cape Archives : large numbers at Agter Brintjieshoogte and Camdebo in the years 1796-98.

Barrow (1801): common among the brushwood along the Swartkops river; the Zuureveldt (present-day Grahamstown vicinity); near Plettenberg Bay; the Brintjieshoogte bush.

Lichtenstein (1812): the Knysna bush; near the Zwart (= Swartkops ?) river, the Krom river and Assegaibos.

Smith (Kirby, 1955): Pondoland, at the mouth of the Umsimhlava river in 1832, in large numbers.

Baines (Kennedy, 1961): the vicinity of the Koonap river in 1842.

Backhouse (1844): the Knysna bush.

Victorin (1854): the Knysna bush.

Stanford (Macquarrie, 1958): the Engcobo valley and Griqualand East during the years 1850-1885.

Browning (1880): Uitenhage.

F 699, Cape Archives (1898-1900): a letter dated February 1900, from the Civil Commissioner at Swellendam to the Under - Secretary for Agriculture, alludes to the damage done to the State Nursery by bushbuck. According to the forester in charge, there were hundreds of bushbuck in the Grootvadersbos, he personally having seen 20 to 30 together. A letter dated 20th May, 1889, directed to the Conservator of Forests, mentions bushbuck in the government forests in the Alexandria district.

Ward (1896): plentiful in the southern parts of the Cape Province and the Transkei where the necessary bush occurred.

Sclater (1900), Lydekker (1908), Haagner (1920), FitzSimons (1920) and Shortridge (1934): the southern and eastern Cape coastal bush, but not further south than Caledon.

Natal:

In Natal the bushbuck occurred along the coast as well as further inland in suitable localities.

Drummond (1875): near the Black Umfolozi in Zululand and other unspecified areas in Natal.

Brooks (1876): thick cover throughout Natal.

Gillmore (1878): near the Bushmans river, a tributary of the Tugela.

Baldwin (1894): near the St. Lucia river.

Ward (1896): along the coast of Natal.

Sclater (1900): Natal and Zululand.

Findlay (1903): Zululand along the Hluhluwe and Manzibomvu rivers.

Lydekker (1908): Natal.

Haagner (1920): Natal and Zululand.

Transvaal:

The records for the Transvaal indicate an earlier distribution mainly in the lowveld of the eastern and northern Transvaal. These include:

Cumming (1850): both banks of the Limpopo river.

Holub (1872): Buyspoort in the Marico district.

Selous (1881): the vicinity of the Limpopo and its tributaries.

Anderson (1888): the Zeerust district.

Van Oordt (1894): the old Pongola Game Reserve.

Rendall (1895): De Kaap in the Barberton district.

Ward (1896): the banks of the Limpopo.

Sclater (1900): the Limpopo valley.

Capell (1901-42): near Komatipoort in 1904; east of the Komati river in the Komatipoort vicinity in 1905.

Lydekker (1908): eastern and northern Transvaal.

Stevenson-Hamilton (1912): the Sabi and Shingwedzi Game Reserves.

Haagner (1920): the eastern Transvaal.

Stevenson-Hamilton (1934): the eastern Transvaal lowveld.

Swaziland :

Drummond (1875): the vicinity of the Komati river.

Mocambique:

Peters (1852): plentiful along the Zambezi near Sena, Tete, Macanga and Boror.

Kirk (1864): the Zambezi plains and the Zambezi delta.

Kirby (1899): the Chiringoma area; common throughout all parts of Mocambique.

Findlay (1903): between the Mwanza and Mwardzi rivers; along the Jungwe and Madingue-dingue rivers.

Lydekker (1908): Gazaland and Mocambique.

Vasse (1909): Mount Panga near the border in the Umtali vicinity; Chicolé; Nioronga on the Pungwe river.

Rhodesia :

Kirk (1864): the banks of the Zambezi river.

Selous (1881): the vicinity of the Zambezi, Gwai and Sanyati rivers.

Ward (1896): the Zambezi and some of its tributaries.

Sclater (1900): abundant in the eastern part of Rhodesia and along the upper Zambezi.

Selous (1907): near the Gwai river.

Capell (1901-42): along the Nuanetsi river in southeastern Rhodesia in 1918; near the Nyakasanga river in the vicinity of the Zambezi-Rekometje confluence; the Nemana pools.

Botswana:

Holub (1872): the junction of the Mhalapshwe and Limpopo rivers.

Bradshaw (1881): the Chobe river vicinity.

Selous (1881): the south bank of the Chobe river.

Anderson (1888): the Zouga (= Botletle) river; Lake Ngami ; the Makarikari pans.

Holub (1893): the Notwani-Limpopo confluence; the Panda ma Tenga vicinity; the Chobe-Zambezi junction.

Bryden (1893): the Limpopo, Botletle, Chobe, Mababe and Tamalakane river banks.

Ward (1896), Selous (1907), Lydekker (1908) and Hodson (1912): the vicinity of the Chobe river.

South West Africa:

Schultz and Hammar (1897): the vicinity of the Okavango river.

Shortridge (1934): the Okavango valley west of Sambio-Mbunja; the Caprivi Strip.

Present distribution:

Ellerman et al. (1953) give the overall distribution of the bushbuck in southern Africa as follows : in the Transvaal in suitable localities inside and outside the confines of the Kruger National Park, e.g. in the Soutpansberg and Rustenburg districts; Natal and Zululand and the Cape Province in the George and Knysna divisions and the Addo bush; its range also includes the Caprivi and the Okavango valley, Ngamiland, Rhodesia and Mocambique.

Cape Province:

Rand (1955): mainly the southeastern

divisions from about George and Knysna eastwards; an estimated provincial population of 3556.

Skead (1958): the Uitenhage division.

Bigalke and Bateman (1962): the following eastern Cape divisions: Adelaide, Albany, Alexandria, Bathurst, Bedford, Cathcart, East London, Elliot, Fort Beaufort, Graaff Reinet, Humansdorp, Jansenville, King William's Town, Komgha, Peddie, Port Elizabeth, Somerset East, Stutterheim, Steytlerville, Uitenhage and Victoria East.

De Graaff (in litt.): a single bushbuck in the Bontebok National Park (March, 1969).

Natal:

Vincent (1962): "Ubiquitous from about 6,000 feet down to sea level in all suitably dense evergreen cover, whether this be coastal jungle, riverain scrub or mountain rain forest."

Bigalke (1965): widespread in the Alfred, Port Shepstone, Umzinto, Inanda, Lower Tugela, Mtunzini, Eshowe, Ubombo, Camperdown, New Hanover, Pollela, Lions River and Umvoti districts; more restricted in the Ixopo, Richmond, Pietermaritzburg, Impendle, Mooi River, Weenen, Estcourt, Newcastle and Ngotshe districts; very locally distributed in the Bergville, Kliprivier, Utrecht, Paulpietersburg and Vryheid districts.

Bourquin (1966): fairly common in the Ndumu and the Giant's Castle Game Reserves; common in the Mkuzi Game Reserve, the Royal Natal National Park and the Oribi Gorge Nature Reserve; very common in the Umfolozi and Hluhluwe Game Reserves (3,000 in the latter); rare in the False Bay Nature Reserve; very rare in the Paradise Valley Nature Reserve and 40-50 occur in the Stainbank Nature Reserve.

Natal Fieldwork Section (1966): a large population in the Hlogwene Forest, near the mouth of the Tugela river.

Transvaal:

In the Transvaal the bushbuck occurs both inside and outside the Kruger National Park, approximately north of 26° S latitude.

Du Plessis (1955): the Loskop Dam Nature Reserve.

Ketttlitz (1955): on private farms in the Rustenburg, Waterberg, Potgietersrust, Pietersburg, Soutpansberg and Pilgrims Rest districts; the Crocodile-Komati-Lomati river system south of the Sabie river; the Pongola river south of Swaziland; the eastern highveld in the Lydenburg, Belfast, Carolina and Middelburg districts; the central Transvaal but not the western highveld; densest population on the banks of the Limpopo, in the neighbourhood of its most northerly turn, west of Messina.

Ketttlitz and Verschuur (1958): the Hans Merensky Nature Reserve where about 20 occur along the Letaba river.

Meester (1960): the Loskop Dam Nature Reserve.

Ketttlitz (1962): north of 26° S latitude wherever dense riverine habitat exists; south of this latitude it occurs in the Pongola area between Swaziland and the Natal border.

Pienaar (1963): the Kruger National Park wherever riparian or light montane forests and overgrown valleys occur; most often encountered along the Sabi and Levubu rivers, the mountainous area in the vicinity of Punda Milia and west of Malelane and in the long grassveld around Pretorius Kop; the total Park population estimated at between 700 and 800.

Hirst (1964): the Timbavati Private Nature Reserve.

De Graaff (in litt.): approximately 2,500 in the Kruger National Park in 1968.

Mocambique:

Fajardo (1953): Gorongosa National Park.

Ellerman et al. (1953): "Portuguese East Africa, including Gorongosa district."

Rhodesia:

Fraser (1958): largely confined to the riverine thickets bordering rivers.

Child and Savory (1964): find that its distribution tends to tail off in the west where it is absent in large areas extending from the southern portions of the Wankie National Park to Plumtree.

Botswana:

Hill (1942): Kabulabula in northern Botswana.

Kay (1962): the vicinity of the Tamalakanane and Chobe rivers.

Kirsten (1966): the Moremi Game Reserve.

Tinley (1966): fairly common in some parts but rare in others in the Moremi Game Reserve; confined to the riverine and marginal flood plain woodland.

Knobel (1967): along the Chobe river in the Chobe Game Reserve.

Palmer (1967): the Chobe Game Reserve.

Winchester-Gould (1968): the Okavango delta and along the Chobe river.

Child (1968): common along the Chobe, Botletle and Linyanti; less common in the Okavango delta.

Smithers (1968): confined to the thick underbrush of the Okavango river, the Okavango swamp, the Botletle and Chobe rivers.

South West Africa:

Bigalke (1958): limited to the Okavango valley and the Caprivi.

Change in distribution:

Owing to incomplete records of past distribution, the widest historical range of the bushbuck will never be known exactly, but wherever it was known to have occurred in the past it is still to be found, even though in more limited numbers. Bryden (1899) writes: "These antelopes are found in suitable localities throughout South Africa, and, owing to their retiring habits, will be the last to remain." This statement seems to a large extent to be true, although along the southern Cape coast it does not extend as far west as it used to.

The bushbuck has also been introduced into the Willem Pretorius Game Reserve in the Orange Free State where 6 to 7 occurred according to the 1968 census.



Past distribution:

Tragelaphus spekei (Sitatunga)

Present distribution:



Tragelaphus spekei (Sitatunga):

The sitatunga always seems to have had a well-defined distribution in the marshes, swamps and reedbeds of the rivers in Ngamiland and the Caprivi.

In and around Lake Ngami it has been recorded by Andersson (1856), Bryden (1896), Sclater and Thomas (1894-5), Bryden (1899), FitzSimons (1920) and Shortridge (1934).

Among the rushes and reeds of the Chobe river it is mentioned by Livingstone (1857), Wahlberg (Petermann, 1858), Kirk (1864), Selous (1881), Bryden (1893), Ward (1897), Schultz and Hammar (1897), Holub (1890), Bryden (1899), Selous (1907), Lydekker (1908), Hodson (1912), FitzSimons (1920), Haagner (1920) and Shortridge (1934).

The vicinity of the Okavango river is mentioned by Ward (1897), Bryden (1893 and 1899), Hodson (1912) and by Shortridge (1934) who records it along this river west of Quito.

Other rivers in this area along which the sitatunga was encountered, are the Mababe, Tamalakanane and Machabe (Selous, 1881); the Zambezi in north-western Rhodesia and the Caprivi (Livingstone, 1857; Sclater and Thomas, 1894-5; Bryden, 1899; Lydekker, 1908; Haagner, 1920 and Shortridge, 1934). Maugham (1910) states that it did not occur along the Portuguese Zambezi.

Present distribution:

Mocambique:

Sidney (1965) finds no records of the sitatunga south of the Zambezi river and is doubtful whether it occurs at the mouth of this river. Rowland Ward (1935) records a single specimen from Chinde in the Zambezi delta area.

Tinley (in litt.): the sitatunga definitely occurs on the Zambezi not far from the Caborabassa Dam area; unconfirmed reports from the Zambezi delta have not been verified.

Rhodesia:

Child and Savory (1964) are doubtful as to the status of the sitatunga in the northwestern

corner of Rhodesia since no recent reports have been received of its occurrence on the Zambezi just upstream from the northwestern tip of the territory.

An earlier record also doubts the existence of the species in Rhodesia. "It is unlikely that any of these species (Pookoo, Sitatunga and Lechwe) occur anywhere in the Colony except perhaps in the immediate vicinity of the Zambezi River or on the islands. They may occur in the Wankie Native district but no authenticated reports have been received from the area." (Southern Rhodesia Annual Report of the Game Section, Department of Mines, Lands and Surveys for the year ended 31st December, 1954).

Sidney (1965), however, states positively that the sitatunga is found in Rhodesia, but only on islands in the Zambezi river west of the Victoria Falls in small fluctuating numbers, and not in Wankie or further to the south.

Botswana:

Kay (1962): the Boro river, the Okavango swamps and the Mababe flats.

Kirsten (1966): the Moremi Game Reserve.

Sidney (1965): Ngamiland and the vicinity of the Chobe river.

Tinley (1966): the marshes of the Moremi Game Reserve.

Child (1968): the swamps of the Okavango delta; the Botswana side of the Linyanti swamps as far east as Lake Liambezi; occasionally along the Chobe east of this limit within the Kachikau Enclave.

Smithers (1968): the Linyanti swamps; Chobe swamps; northern parts of the Okavango delta south to the area of swamp west of Shorobe.

South West Africa:

Sidney (1965): the swamps of the Linyanti and marshes in the Caprivi.

Child (1968): eastern Caprivi in permanent swamps near Kasane.

Change in distribution:

The range of the sitatunga is much the same as in the past. Local changes may have occurred along the smaller rivers and numbers are no doubt lower than in the past.