

# LESSER KNOWN MAMMALS OF ZIMBABWE

Issued 20<sup>th</sup> January 1998

(Extracted from *Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 1 of 1998*)<sup>2</sup>



## **65c: Aardwolf**

*Proteles cristatus*

The nocturnal Aardwolf is a timid and inoffensive animal that subsists almost entirely on termites, but are known to include spiders and insects in their diet. They have fairly long canine teeth but they are so poorly developed that it is doubtful if they could even cope with carrion.

When disturbed or excited they will raise the long hairs on their backs, which makes them appear very much larger. They can also emit a very strong odour from their anal glands. The voice is a loud growl and bark like a dog, but they can also emit a very loud roar. They are widely distributed throughout much of Zimbabwe apart from the extreme northeast.



## **\$2.40: Large Grey Mongoose**

*Herpestes ichneumon*

This diurnal or daytime species with some nocturnal activities, is found singly or in pairs. Their diet consists mainly of fish, crabs, birds, rodents, reptiles and insects where they are seldom found far from water and favour riverine vegetation such as reed beds. They are excellent swimmers but are entirely terrestrial. In Zimbabwe they are confined mainly to the Zambezi River valley.

The Large Grey Mongoose is one of the largest of all African mongooses and is grizzled grey in colour with a darker head and lower limbs. It has a distinctive broad black tip to its tail. Under stress it erects the hair on its body and it vocalises with a loud Kie-kie-kie, growls softly, or may freeze, lying flat on the ground.



**\$3.10: Clawless Otter**

*Aonyx capensis*

The Clawless Otter is widely distributed throughout Zimbabwe wherever there is standing fresh water, but absent from the Zambezi and Limpopo Rivers. Crabs and frogs make up a large proportion of its diet but it also takes fish, birds, mammals, reptiles and molluscs. It is mostly active in the early morning and late evening but can be seen at all hours of the day and night.

The Clawless Otter has a long, heavy and flattened tail which is used for propulsion, nasal apertures which can be closed under water and webbed feet. Its name derives from the fact that the fore feet have no claws while the hind feet have only small vestigial claws and are only partially webbed. They are a robust animal with well developed canine teeth and acute sense of smell and hearing.



The Rock Elephant Shrew depicted on the Bulletin cover is similar to many rats and mice in size but have long mobile snouts that look like a miniature version of the elephant's trunk, hence their common name. They are mainly insectivorous but sometimes eat vegetable matter.



**\$4.20: Antbear (Aardvark)**

*Orycteropus afer*

This nocturnal, solitary and powerful animal is capable of digging at great speed and has a widespread distribution throughout Zimbabwe. It feeds almost entirely on termites but has also been known to eat insects and wild melons. It digs into termite mounds where it extracts the termites with its 45cm long sticky tongue.

Antbears occupy woodland, scrub, open grasslands and floodplains but prefer light sandy soils where they dig their own burrows. The antbear's burrows are ecologically important to a wide variety of animals, who adopt them as their homes: porcupines, pythons, warthogs, jackals, hyenas, leopards, wild dogs and wild cats.



The Southern African Hedgehog depicted on the First Day cover is found mainly in the south and west of Zimbabwe. About 20cm in length, the hedgehog emerges at night to feed on insects, lizards, mice, frogs and fungi.

## The Stamps



## Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC <sup>1</sup>	Value	Description
960	388	65c	Aardwolf
961	389	\$2.40	Large Grey Mongoose
962	390	\$3.10	Clawless Otter
963	391	\$4.20	Antbear

## Technical details

<b>Stamp size:</b>	All values	42 x 28 mm
<b>Sheet Size:</b>	50 stamps (10 rows of 5 stamps), two panes per printed sheet	
<b>Artist:</b>	Cedric Herbert	
<b>Paper:</b>	ZSC paper type F - Although still officially described as HS8, the paper properties changed in 1996. This is fluorescent front but non-fluorescent back and the gum is whitish PVA.	
<b>Print colours:</b>	Cyan, magenta, yellow & black	
<b>Perforations:</b>	SG 14½, ZSC 14¼	
	Top margin:	Perforated through.
	Other margins:	Imperforate
<b>Printer:</b>	NatPrint, Harare, Zimbabwe	
<b>Printer's Imprint:</b>	Bottom Margin, below Row 10 Column 3. Imprint printed in black	
<b>Cylinder numbers:</b>	Top margin above R1/1. Colours from left – cyan, magenta, yellow, black	

**Colour register:** Type TL 4– round boxed – left margin opposite R1/1. Colours reading down – cyan, magenta, yellow, black

**Sheet Value:** Top margin, above R1/5, printed in black.

**Sheet Number:** Type SN 4a with ‘PTC’ prefix, right margin opposite R1/5, reading down

**Print numbers:**

45c	2,000,000	\$2.40	190,000
\$3.10	190,000	\$4.20	190,000

**Issue date:** 20<sup>th</sup> January 1998

**Withdrawal from sale:**

**Demonetarisaton:**

### Listed varieties

No listed varieties have been noted

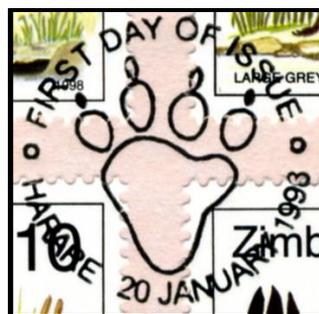
### Unlisted Varieties

There are numerous small dots and specks in the printing of these stamps, particularly in the backgrounds. No significant varieties have been reported.

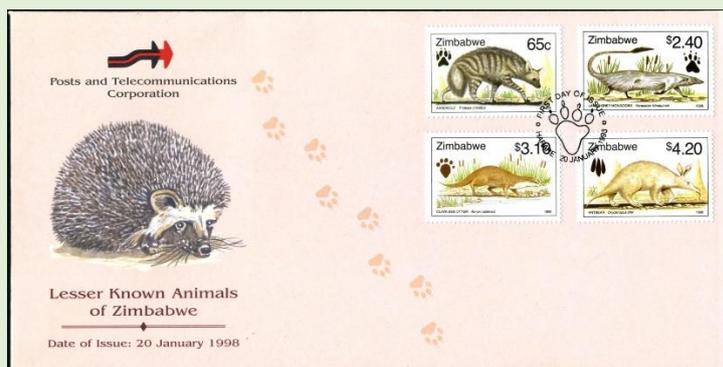
### First Day Cover

The cover numbering comes from the catalogue produced by Geoff Brakspear.

A pictorial first day of issue canceller was produced for this issued and was used by the Philatelic Bureau. Other first day cover cancellers continued to be used at main post offices.



ZW074.1 (PTC)



220 x 110 mm

**Bibliography:**

1. "The Zimbabwean Concise Postage Stamp Catalogue", published by Harare Stamp Company, edited by Ken Allanson, Mike Amos and Geoff Brakspear. The catalogue continues to be updated and expanded by Geoff Brakspear
2. PTC Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 1 of 1998.