



A floating bone

In a human being the ribs numbered 11 and 12 are often referred to as floating ribs.

These ribs are called floating ribs because they are not attached to the sternum section of the rib cage in the front. These floating ribs are however connected to the spinal cord, thus making the term floating ribs a little confusing.



In a lion, leopard and caracal there are two pieces of bone that are called "floating bones". These floating bones are located in the region where the shoulder and the neck meet one



another (indicated by the arrow on the lion

picture). The purpose of these bones is unknown as neither of them is connected to any other bone in the body. It is physically a piece of bone surrounded by meat or muscle.

When one of these cats is hunted by a trophy hunter the trophy consist of the skull, the hide and the floating bones. The floating bones are often processed into pieces of jewellery. Not many people know about these floating bones, and their purpose is unknown.



GLOW in the dark...



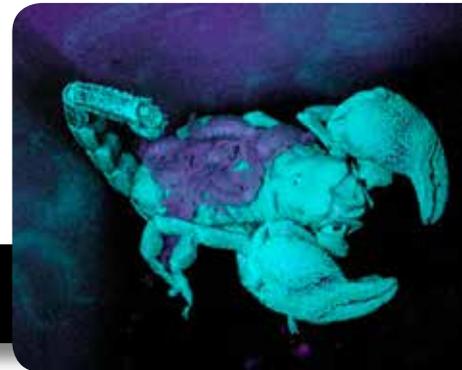
The familiar black or reddish scorpion as we know it has a very interesting but dark secret, they are capable of glowing bright cyan-green in the dark when they find themselves under a UV light.

with a **STING!**

A hand held UV light has long been a standard tool for nocturnal field surveys of scorpions. The function or reason for this characteristic is a mystery. Scorpions glow due to the presence of fluorescent chemicals found in the cuticle. The fluorescent ability of a scorpion increases every time it loses a skin or moults.



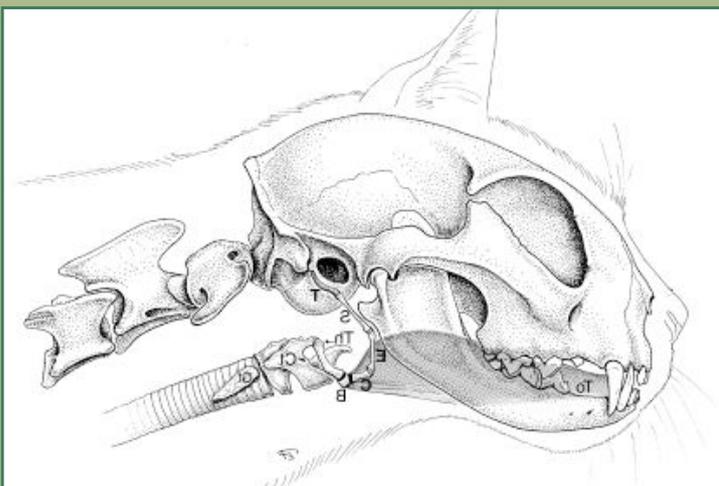
Research has shown that one such fluorescent chemical is known to be beta-carboline. Beta-carboline alkaloids are widespread in plants and animals. Some Beta-carbolines like tryptoline and pinoline are formed naturally in the human body. Pinoline in conjunction with melatonin plays a role in the pineal gland which in turn regulates the sleep-wake cycle. It is interesting to see that newborn scorpions, often being carried on the mother's back, do not glow when a UV light is shone on them. Their ability to glow when a UV light is shone on them will only start to develop with the instars (developmental stages) to follow.



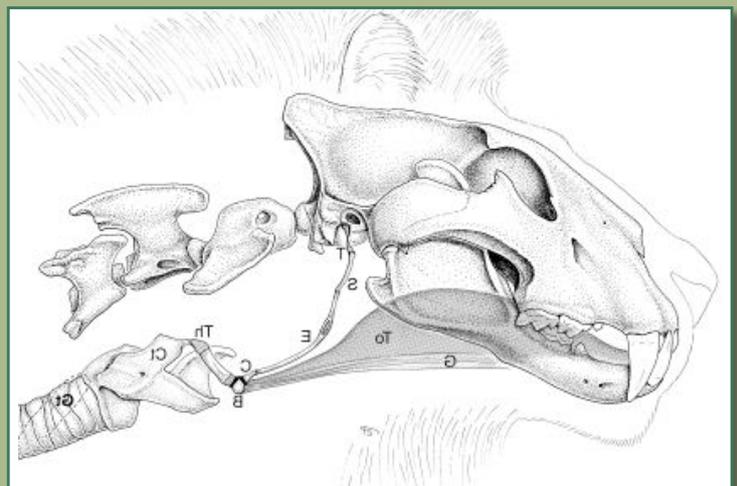
Purring vs ROARING

The Family Felidae is divided into the following subfamilies; Felinae (house cat), Acinonychinae (cheetah) and Pantherinae (lion, leopard, jaguar, tiger and snow leopard). These subfamilies are categorised into the Felinae and Acinonychinae on the one side and the Pantherinae on the other side, on account of the fact that some species can only purr and some can only roar. The reason why the house cat and the cheetah are not capable of roaring is as a result of the topographical position and structural characteristics of the larynx.

One of the major role players in the larynx when it comes to creating a sound is the hyoid bones or apparatus, consisting of a number of different bones. The degree of ossification of the hyoid bones is said to be responsible for an animal being able to purr versus roaring. Animals with a fully ossified hyoid apparatus (house cat and cheetah) are capable of purring and animals with a partly ligamentous hyoid apparatus (lion, leopard, jaguar, tiger and snow leopard) are capable of roaring.



Hyoid apparatus, larynx and cranial part of the trachea in the domestic cat.
To, tongue; T, Tympanohyoideum;
S, Stylohyoideum; E, Epihyoideum;
C, Ceratohyoideum; B, Basiyoideum;
Th, Thyrohyoideum; Ct, Cartilago thyroidea;
Gt, Glandula thyroidea.



Hyoid apparatus, larynx and cranial part of the trachea in the lion. G, M. geniohyoideus;
To, tongue; T, Tympanohyoideum;
S, Stylohyoideum; E, Epihyoideum;
C, Th, ThyrohyoCeratohyoideum;
B, Basiyoideum; ideum; Ct, Cartilago
thyroidea;
Gt, Glandula thyroidea.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE REST OF AFRICA

UGANDA

Two youths aged 22 and 19 drowned in Lake George in Queen Elizabeth National Park when their fishing boat capsized in an alleged clash with hippopotami. According to the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) the accident could have occurred at around 2 am whilst the fishing boat was approximately 3 kilometres from the shore. The boat sustained significant damage in the process. The area where the accident took place is, according to the locals, a favourite breeding place for hippos. Not long ago three other fishermen drowned after their boat was overturned in the same area.



ZIMBABWE

A man by the name of Solomon Manjoro was killed in the protected Charara safari area inside a national park when he and his accomplice tried to shoot an elephant. His accomplice alerted the police and when the police investigated the scene they discovered that the accomplice Noluck Tafuruka was also involved. Tafuruka was arrested and charged with the illegal possession of firearms and the contravention of local wildlife laws.



MALAWI

An elephant that came from the Liwonde National Park trampled a woman who was carrying a child on her back. The woman from the Machawe village near Malosa, was taken to the Malosa Mission Hospital. The woman sustained serious injuries but the baby was only slightly injured. They were both treated at the Malos Mission Hospital. When the police and two game rangers arrived at Malosa they started searching for the elephant. When they tried to shoot it the elephant attacked the game rangers and killed one of the game rangers with its tusks. The elephant came upon another individual whilst in the process of fleeing from the pursuing game ranger and killed this individual as well. A couple of hours later the elephant was killed near the town of Nasawa. An investigation confirmed that the elephant was wounded when poachers shot at it a couple of days before.



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Inside the Dzenga National Park there is an area known as Dzanga Bai or also known locally as "elephant village". The Dzanga Bai is a big clearing in the forest where 50-200 elephants go each day to "drink the mineral salts present in the sands". A week ago 17 gunmen affiliated to the Seleka rebels entered the National Park and threatened to shoot these elephants in an attempt to collect and sell the ivory to acquire funding for purchasing weapons. Currently the CAR is in chaos and the instability is generously abused by the Seleka rebels after the regime of Francois Bozize was toppled in March 2013.



GABON, CHAD & CAMEROON

In the Minkebe Park in north-eastern Gabon more than 11 000 elephants had been slaughtered between 2004 and 2013 by rebels and war lords. During the month of March 2013 a total of 86 elephants were killed in one week in Chad. In Cameroon's Ndjida National Park more than 300 elephants were killed during the last two months of last year.

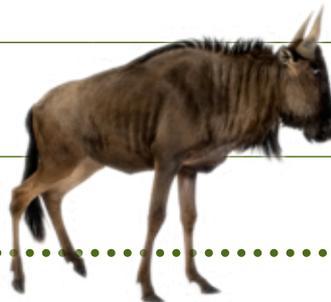




Wildlife Quiz



1.	A Cycad is a type of plant.	True or False
2.	An African Shelduck will use an abandoned antbear hole in which to lay its eggs.	True or False
3.	An Egyptian Goose will lay its eggs in the nest of an eagle located in a tree.	True or False
4.	Baby Egyptian Geese chicks will simply jump out of the nest in the tree when the time is right to leave the nest.	True or False
5.	Acacia trees usually grow in soil that has a very low clay content.	True or False
6.	Blue Wildebeest often die from a disease called "snotsiekte".	True or False
7.	A herd of sable is led by a female individual.	True or False
8.	Both the male and the female antelope species living in open savannah regions have horns.	True or False
9.	The tree found on the Ledibeng Eco-Estate logo represents a Tamboti tree.	True or False
10.	A warthog is regarded as an omnivore.	True or False



From your Wildlife Management Team



For information on property sales contact:
 Tel: **014 717 3021**
 Email: **info@cranbrook.co.za**

We would like to hear your story!

Should you have an event or story you would like to share, please send us your photos and a few words to **wildlife@lantic.net**



Answers: 1.(True), 2.(True), 3.(True), 4.(True), 5.(False), 6.(False), 7.(True), 8.(True), 9.(True), 10.(True)