



# An Introduction to the Biodiversity Heritage Library



The Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) is a consortium of 14 natural history and botanical libraries that collaborate to digitize past and present biodiversity literature, all of which is made freely available online at [www.biodiversitylibrary.org](http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org). BHL contains over 38.7 million pages of digitized literature (representing over 55,000 titles and 105,000 volumes), which can be freely downloaded as PDFs or high resolution images.

BHL is a global initiative, with project nodes in Europe, China, Brazil, Australia, and Egypt. In June, 2012, the BHL, in collaboration with the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), will host a meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, attended by representatives from across Africa to discuss the creation of a BHL for sub-Saharan Africa.

BHL contains material about biodiversity from all parts of the world. Finding content in BHL is simple. Users can search by keywords to find material about a particular topic or by title to find a specific item.

To search BHL, simply enter a keyword, title, or other search term into the main BHL search box.

The screenshot shows the BHL website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Mailing List', 'Feedback', 'About', 'Data exports', 'Developer Tools', 'Members', 'Copyright', and 'Help'. Below this is the BHL logo and a search bar containing the text 'South Africa'. The search bar is highlighted with a red circle. Below the search bar, there are tabs for 'General', 'Books/Journals', 'Authors', 'Subjects', 'Scientific Names', and 'Citation Finder (BETA)'. The main content area displays a welcome message and a 'Today's Picks' section with three botanical illustrations.

Search BHL by entering a search term into the main search box.



The subsequent screen will display a list of material matching that keyword search.

The screenshot shows the BHL website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the BHL logo, a search bar, and various utility links like 'Donate', 'Facebook', 'Twitter', 'LinkedIn', and 'Twitter'. Below the navigation bar, there are filters for 'Browse By' (Titles, Authors, Subjects, Map, Year, Collections) and 'Published In' (Any Language) and 'For' (All Contributors). The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column contains 'Now Online' statistics (55,577 titles, 105,448 volumes, 38,769,496 pages), a 'Featured Collection' for Carl Linnaeus, and a 'BHL on Twitter' tweet. The middle column displays 'Search Results (New Search)' for 'South Africa', showing a list of 11 items. The right column is a vertical scrollbar. The search results list includes titles like 'South African journal of science', 'South African journal of natural history', 'Annals of the South African Museum', 'The antiquity of man in South Africa, and evolution', and 'The birds of South Africa'. Each item has a 'View record' and 'View book' link.

Search results based on search terms entered.

To find out more about a particular item, click on “view record” to see bibliographic information and a list of associated volumes.



This screenshot is identical to the one above, but with a red circle highlighting the 'View record' link for the 8th item in the search results list, 'South African journal of natural history'. The rest of the page layout, including the navigation bar, filters, and other search results, remains the same.

“View Record” to see bibliographic information for a title.





**Now Online**  
 55,577 titles  
 105,448 volumes  
 38,769,496 pages  
[Recent additions](#)

**Featured Collection**  
  
  
**Carl Linnaeus Collection**

**BHL on Twitter**  
 BioDivLibrary BHL and Our Users: Wendy Wasman: When most people think of BHL's users, they think of scientists accessing liter... bit.ly/KBuIXO

### South African journal of natural history.

Brief | [Detailed](#) | [MODS](#) | [BibTeX](#) | [EndNote](#)

**Related Titles:**  
*Succeeding:* Pamphlet - South African Biological Society  
  
**Author/Creator:**  
[South African Biological Society.](#)  
  
**Genre:**  
 Journal  
  
**Publication info:**  
 Pretoria, South African Biological Society.  
  
**Subjects:**  
[Natural history](#), [Periodicals](#), [South Africa](#)  
  
**BHL Collections:**  
[MBLWHOI Library](#), [Woods Hole](#)



[Find in a local library](#)

[Report an error](#)  
  
 = show details for volume = read  
  
**View:** [Expand All Scan Details](#)  
 [v. 1 \(1818-1919\)](#)  
 [v. 2 \(1920\)](#)  
 [v. 3, no. 1 \(1921\)](#)  
 [v. 3, no. 2 \(1922\)](#)

Bibliographic information about a title.

To view a specific book, click on “view book” in the search results screen or click on a volume in the bibliographic display.

**Now Online**  
 55,577 titles  
 105,448 volumes  
 38,769,496 pages  
[Recent additions](#)

**Featured Collection**  
  
  
**Carl Linnaeus Collection**

**BHL on Twitter**  
 BioDivLibrary Tho known as white ants in Australia, termites more closely related 2 cockroaches. See their massive mounds in #bhlib ow.ly/bdete 1 hour ago · favorite

### Search Results [\(New Search\)](#)

Results for "South Africa"

[Books/Journals](#) displayed : 100 [view more books/journals...](#)  
[Authors](#) displayed : 15  
[Subjects](#) displayed : 6  
[Scientific Names](#) displayed : 0

7. **South African journal of science.**  
 By: South African Association for the Advancement of Science.  
 Publication info: [Marshalltown, Transvaal :South African Association for the Advancement of Science,  
 Contributed by: MBLWHOI Library, Woods Hole  
 BHL Collections: MBLWHOI Library, Woods Hole  
[View record](#) [View book](#)
8. **South African journal of natural history.**  
 By: South African Biological Society.  
 Publication info: Pretoria, South African Biological Society.  
 Contributed by: MBLWHOI Library, Woods Hole  
 BHL Collections: ~~MBLWHOI~~ Library, Woods Hole  
[View record](#) [View book](#)
9. **Annals of the South African Museum. Annale van die Suid-Afrikaanse Museum.**  
 By: South African Museum. - South African Museum.  
 Publication info: Cape Town [etc., South African Museum, etc.]  
 Contributed by: MBLWHOI Library, Woods Hole  
 BHL Collections: MBLWHOI Library, Woods Hole  
[View record](#) [View book](#)
10. **The antiquity of man in South Africa, and evolution.**  
 By: Hillier, Alfred P.  
 Publication info: Kimberley :Hartley, 1890.  
 Contributed by: University of California Libraries (archive.org)  
[View record](#) [View book](#)
11. **The birds of South Africa.**  
 By: Stark, Arthur Cowell, - Sclater, William Lutley.  
 Publication info: London, R. H. Porter, 1900-1906.  
 Contributed by: Cornell University Library  
[View record](#) [View book](#)

“View Book” from the search result screen. When there are multiple volumes associated with a title, “View Book” will display the first volume in the set.

**Now Online**  
55,577 titles  
105,448 volumes  
38,769,496 pages  
[Recent additions](#)

**Featured Collection**



BHL Biodiversity Heritage Library

Carl Linnaeus Collection

**BHL on Twitter**

BioDivLibrary BHL and Our Users: Wendy Wasman: When most people think of BHL's users, they think of scientists accessing liter... [bit.ly/K8uIXO](http://bit.ly/K8uIXO)

**South African journal of natural history.**

Brief | [Detailed](#) | [MODS](#) | [BibTeX](#) | [EndNote](#)

**Related Titles:**

*Succeeding:* Pamphlet - South African Biological Society

**Author/Creator:**

[South African Biological Society.](#)

**Genre:**

Journal

**Publication info:**

Pretoria, South African Biological Society.

**Subjects:**

[Natural history](#), [Periodicals](#), [South Africa](#)

**BHL Collections:**

[MBLWHOI Library](#), [Woods Hole](#)

[Find in a local library](#)

[Report an error](#)

= show details for volume = read

**View:** [Expand All Scan Details](#)

- [v. 1 \(1818-1919\)](#)
- [v. 2 \(1920\)](#)
- [v. 3, no. 1 \(1921\)](#)
- [v. 3, no. 2 \(1922\)](#)

“View Book” from the bibliographic information screen.

**Pages** [Select pages to download](#)

- Text
- Text
- Text
- Title Page
- Text
- Table of Contents
- Text
- Page 5
- Page 6
- Page 7
- Page 8
- Page 9
- Page 10
- Page 11
- Page 12
- Page 13
- Page 14
- Page 15

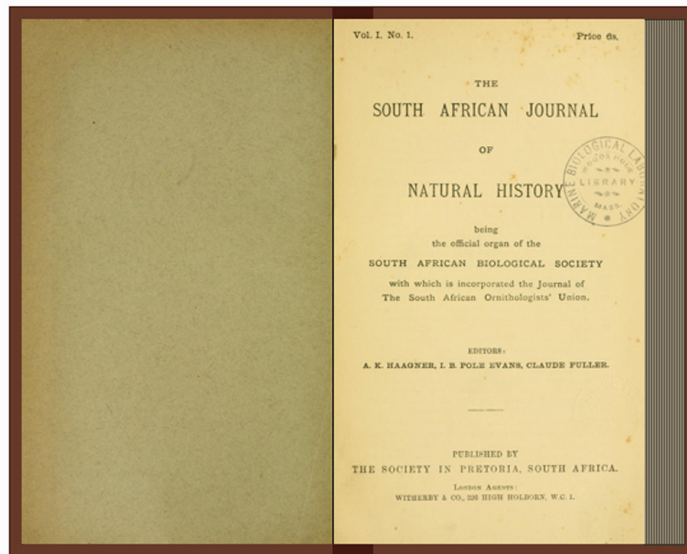
Link to this page: [View Text](http://biodiversitylibrary.org/page/7074307)  
<http://biodiversitylibrary.org/page/7074307>

**Names on this page**

No Names Found  
-powered by [uBio](#)

South African journal of natural history. v. 1 (1818-1919) Download/About this book

Zoom: Auto



Book Viewer in BHL.



You can download a PDF or high resolution images of any book in BHL. You can also select specific pages to create a custom PDF. You can then save or print these files for later use.

The screenshot shows the BHL website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the BHL logo, a search bar, and various utility links like 'Mailing List', 'Feedback', 'About', etc. Below the navigation bar, there are social media icons and a 'Donate' button. The main content area displays the title 'South African journal of natural history. v. 1 (1818-1919)'. A dropdown menu is open, showing options for downloading and viewing the book. On the left side, there is a 'Pages' sidebar with a list of page numbers and a 'Names on this page' section. The main image shows the title page of the journal, which includes the text: 'THE SOUTH AFRICAN JOURNAL OF NATURAL HISTORY', 'being the official organ of the SOUTH AFRICAN BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY', and 'PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY IN PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA.' A red circle highlights the dropdown menu options.

Drop-Down menu with options to Download a PDF or high resolution images of the book.  
"Select Pages to Download" allows you to select specific pages from the book to create a custom PDF.



# Additional Services

## Name Finding Technology

BHL is equipped with name-finding technology powered by uBio, allowing BHL to identify species names found within scanned literature. Users can search by a species name to find content about a particular organism or see which species names are contained on a particular page.

### Search by Species Name

To find a list of material about a specific species in BHL, simply enter the name in the search box on the “Scientific Names” tab on the homepage.

The screenshot shows the BHL homepage with the following elements:

- Header:** BHL Biodiversity Heritage Library logo, navigation links (Mailing List, Feedback, About, Data exports, Developer Tools, Members, Copyright, Help), and a search bar.
- Navigation:** "Browse By: Titles | Authors | Subjects | Map | Year | Collections" and filters for "Published In: (Any Language)" and "For: (All Contributors)".
- Search Interface:** Tabs for "General", "Books/Journals", "Authors", "Subjects", "Scientific Names" (selected), and "Citation Finder (BETA)". The "Scientific Name" search box contains "Hyaena hyaena" and a "Search" button.
- Text:** "Biodiversity Heritage Library uses uBio's TaxonFinder, a taxonomic name recognition algorithm, to search through all of the texts digitized in BHL and extract the scientific names. Searching for a name will return a list of all the individual pages where that name occurs. NOTE: The text is currently uncorrected text automatically generated from Optical Character Recognition (OCR) programs and is of variable quality for each scanned book." "Here are some examples of scientific names that you can find in the Biodiversity Heritage Library:"
- Examples:**
  - Corn: [Zea mays](#)
  - Tiger: [Panthera tigris](#)
  - Monarch butterfly: [Danaus plexippus](#)
  - Strawberry: [Fragaria magna](#)
  - Annual meadow grass: [Poa annua](#)
  - Great white shark: [Carcharodon carcharias](#)
  - African elephant: [Loxodonta africana](#)
  - Domestic dog: [Canis lupus familiaris](#)
  - Bottlenose Dolphin: [Tursiops truncatus](#)
  - Blue whale: [Balaenoptera musculus](#)
- Sidebars:** "Now Online" statistics (55,580 titles, 105,450 volumes, 38,770,592 pages), "Featured Collection" (Theodore Roosevelt Collection), and "BHL on Twitter" feed.

Searching BHL for content about a specific species by entering the species name into the search box on the “Species Name” tab.





Click the appropriate name in the search results screen to generate a bibliographic listing each page in BHL that mentions that species.

The screenshot shows the BHL search results page for "Hyaena hyaena". The page includes a header with the BHL logo, navigation links, and a search bar. On the left, there is a "Featured Collection" for Theodore Roosevelt. The main content area displays "Search Results (New Search)" for "Hyaena hyaena", showing 4 scientific names listed. The first result, "Hyaena hyaena (204)", is circled in red.

Now Online  
55,580 titles  
105,450 volumes  
38,770,592 pages  
Recent additions

Featured Collection  
Theodore Roosevelt Collection

Search Results (New Search)  
Results for "Hyaena hyaena"  
Scientific Names displayed : 4

Scientific Names

Biodiversity Heritage Library uses *taxonomic intelligence* tools, including [TaxonFinder](#) developed by [uBio.org](#), to locate, verify, and record scientific names located within the text of each digitized page. **Note:** The text used for this identification is uncorrected OCR, so may not include all results expected or visible in the page.

1. [Hyaena hyaena \(204\)](#)
2. [Hyaena hyaena barbara \(5\)](#)
3. [Hyaena hyaena hyaena \(5\)](#)
4. [Hyaena hyaena syriaca \(2\)](#)

Choose the appropriate name from the search results list.

The screenshot shows the BHL bibliography page for "Hyaena hyaena". The page displays a table of bibliographic entries with columns for Type, Title, Authors, Volume, Date, Page #, and View. The first entry is "Advances in the study of mammalian behavior / Eisenberg, John Frederick. Kleiman, Devra G. American Society of Mammalogists." with a page number of 243. The page number is highlighted in blue.

Bibliography for "[Hyaena hyaena](#)" by Page [View Namebank record](#) [Download CSV](#) [Download BibTeX](#) [Download EndNote](#)

Type	Title	Authors	Volume	Date	Page #	View
Monograph/Item	<a href="#">Advances in the study of mammalian behavior /</a>	Eisenberg, John Frederick. Kleiman, Devra G. American Society of Mammalogists.	<a href="#">(go to volume)</a>	1983	<a href="#">Page 243</a>	<a href="#">View</a>
Monograph/Item	<a href="#">Advances in the study of mammalian behavior /</a>	Eisenberg, John Frederick. Kleiman, Devra G. American Society of Mammalogists.	<a href="#">(go to volume)</a>	1983	<a href="#">Page 244</a>	<a href="#">View</a>
Monograph/Item	<a href="#">Advances in the study of mammalian behavior /</a>	Eisenberg, John Frederick. Kleiman, Devra G. American Society of Mammalogists.	<a href="#">(go to volume)</a>	1983	<a href="#">Page 251</a>	<a href="#">View</a>
Monograph/Item	<a href="#">Advances in the study of mammalian behavior /</a>	Eisenberg, John Frederick. Kleiman, Devra G. American Society of Mammalogists.	<a href="#">(go to volume)</a>	1983	<a href="#">Page 254</a>	<a href="#">View</a>
Monograph/Item	<a href="#">Advances in the study of mammalian behavior /</a>	Eisenberg, John Frederick. Kleiman, Devra G. American Society of Mammalogists.	<a href="#">(go to volume)</a>	1983	<a href="#">Page 262</a>	<a href="#">View</a>
Monograph/Item	<a href="#">Advances in the study of mammalian behavior /</a>	Eisenberg, John Frederick. Kleiman, Devra G. American Society of Mammalogists.	<a href="#">(go to volume)</a>	1983	<a href="#">Page 264</a>	<a href="#">View</a>
Serial	<a href="#">Annali del Museo civico di storia naturale Giacomo</a>	Museo civico di storia naturale Giacomo Doria (Ge	<a href="#">v. 53 1928-30</a>	1916	<a href="#">Page 40</a>	<a href="#">View</a>
Serial	<a href="#">Annali del Museo civico di storia naturale Giacomo</a>	Museo civico di storia naturale Giacomo Doria (Ge	<a href="#">v. 78-79 1970-73</a>	1916	<a href="#">Page 227</a>	<a href="#">View</a>
Monograph/Item	<a href="#">Annotated CITES Appendices and Reservations.</a>		<a href="#">2001</a>	2001	<a href="#">Page 51</a>	<a href="#">View</a>
Monograph/Item	<a href="#">Annotated CITES Appendices and Reservations.</a>		<a href="#">1998</a>	1998	<a href="#">Page 55</a>	<a href="#">View</a>
Serial	<a href="#">Annual report of the Board of Regents of the Smith</a>	Smithsonian Institution. Board of Regents. Smithsonian Institution. United States National Museum.	<a href="#">1918</a>	1846	<a href="#">Page 72</a>	<a href="#">View</a>
Serial	<a href="#">Annual report of the Board of Regents of the Smith</a>	Smithsonian Institution. Board of Regents. Smithsonian Institution. United States National Museum.	<a href="#">1920</a>	1846	<a href="#">Page 91</a>	<a href="#">View</a>
Serial	<a href="#">Annual report of the Board of Regents of the Smith</a>	Smithsonian Institution. Board of Regents. Smithsonian Institution. United States National Museum.	<a href="#">1956</a>	1846	<a href="#">Page 145</a>	<a href="#">View</a>

Page 1 of 1 [200](#) View 1 - 192 of 192

Choosing a species name will generate a bibliography listing all mentions of that species in BHL.



## Species Names on a Page

To see which species are mentioned on a page in BHL, simply check the “Names on this Page” box on the left-hand side of the BHL website when viewing a book. You can click on any name found within this box to generate a bibliography listing all other pages in BHL that mention that species (see bibliography example above).

The screenshot displays the BHL website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the BHL logo, a search box, and various utility links like 'Mailing List', 'Feedback', and 'Data exports'. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with 'Browse By' options (Titles, Authors, Subjects, Map, Year, Collections) and filters for 'Published In' and 'For'. The main content area shows the title 'Annual report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution... 1918' and a zoom level of 25%. The page content is a table of contents for the 1918 report, listing various animal species and their page numbers. On the left side, there is a sidebar with a 'Pages' list and a 'Names on this page' section. The 'Names on this page' section is circled in red and contains a list of species names with small icons next to them, including *Acinonyx jubatus*, *Cavia*, *Cavia tschudii*, *Cebus*, *Crocota crocuta*, *Cynomys ludovicianus*, *Dasyprocta*, *Edentata*, *Euphractus*, *Felis leo*, *Felis tigris*, *Genetta genetta*, *Hamadryas*, *Hyaena brunnea*, *Hyaena hyaena*, *Hystrix*, and *Kinkajou*.

“Names on this Page” displaying all species names found on a page in BHL. Click on any of the names to generate a bibliography listing all other mentions of that species in BHL (see bibliography example above).





## Links of Interest

Want to learn more about BHL? Stay connected and learn more by visiting the following links:

### Global BHL

BHL-Europe: <http://www.bhl-europe.eu/>

BHL-China: <http://www.bhl-china.org/cms/>

BHL-Australia: <http://bhl.ala.org.au/>

BHL-Brazil: <http://biodiversidade.scielo.br/php/index.php>

BHL-Egypt: <http://dar.bibalex.org/webpages/dar.jsf> (Collection: “Biodiversity Heritage Library”)

### Other Links of Interest

Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/biodivlibrary/sets/>

Blog: <http://blog.biodiversitylibrary.org/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/BioDivLibrary>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/#!/biodivlibrary>

iTunes U: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/institution/biodiversity-heritage-library/id467689660>

Submit Questions, Comments, or Request Material to be Scanned:

<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/Feedback.aspx>

Newsletter: <http://biodivlib.wikispaces.com/Newsletters>

Quarterly Reports: <http://biodivlib.wikispaces.com/Reports>

Tutorials: <http://biodivlib.wikispaces.com/Help>

More about BHL: <http://biodivlib.wikispaces.com/About>

Copyright/Licensing Information: <http://biodivlib.wikispaces.com/Licensing+and+Copyright>

Data Exports: <http://biodivlib.wikispaces.com/Data+Exports>

