

Beisa Oryx

Oryx beisa beisa

Oryx beisa (Sp), *Beisa-Spiessbok* (G), *Oryx beisa* (F). "Beisa" is said to be from the Amharic *beza* for this animal, or to be a misconception of the Somali *be'id* or *bi'id*. If the latter, it should have been "beida" rather than "beisa," but it is too late to change now.

DESCRIPTION The overall color of the beisa oryx is a sandy gray, with no black on rump or thighs. The black flank bands are wider than in the fringe-eared oryx, but narrower than in the gemsbok. The black facial stripes do not unite to form a muzzle band, thus the white stripes are continuous from above the eyes to the muzzle. Ears are rather large, and without a hair fringe. The horns are shorter and less divergent than the gemsbok's—similar to those of the fringe-eared oryx, but slimmer.

DISTRIBUTION Southeastern Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, northeastern Uganda, and in Kenya north of the Tana River. The Tana River forms the boundary between the beisa and fringe-eared oryxes.

TAXONOMIC NOTES Consists of *annectens* (central and northern Kenya, southern Ethiopia and perhaps into Somalia), *beisa* (Red Sea coast from northern Ethiopia south to Somalia), and *gallarum* (northeastern Uganda, southeastern Sudan and central Ethiopia), with *beisa* Ruppell, 1835 having priority. Differences among them are inconsequential and limits of distribution unclear.



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this certificate to:

Mechislav Klímovich
for taking a Beisa Oryx

On a hunt in *Ethiopia, Awash* on 02/12/2013

Your entry currently ranks *Photo Entry* trophy