
Bears -- African Style!

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One of the hazards of pushing through the African bush while admiring trees, flowers and birds, is that you need to watch your step!!!! We have lots of antbears in the woods around Namwianga, and they dig big holes all over the place--often hidden in tall grass!



An Ant Bear, or Aardvark, is a very shy creature, and rarely seen. Two or three times in my life I have seen one scamper across the highway in my headlights when driving in the middle of the night. Though it is obvious that several share Namwianga with us humans, I have only seen one here on the mission -- early early one morning. And he (or she) left in a hurry! But they dig holes everywhere, so watch out when you are having a great time bundu-bashing!

I got the pictures below off the Internet.



These critters dig holes, hunting for ants to eat. When driving along a narrow path to a remote village--watch out. And even when you watch out you can still stumble into trouble.



Travelling to a village one day, we were very happy that it had rained and the road was not dusty. The path was wide enough to see where the wheels were about to go, so we were happy about that too --

Then suddenly, Crash!

The road gave way beneath us and trapped the front wheels!

How could that happen?

Wow!

An ant bear had tunnelled right under the road, rain softened the soil over the hole, and it caved in on us.

It took awhile to dig ourselves out, and we were real careful travelling across that same hazard on our way back home.

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