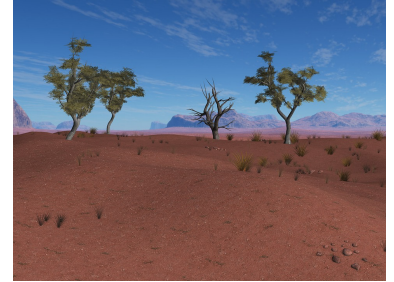
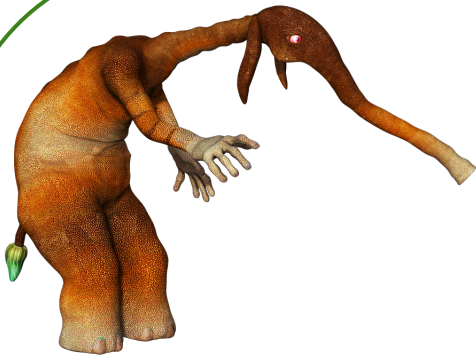


The donriphiant is a large land mammal; adult males often weigh up to 3500kg. Its thick, wrinkled skin helps to trap moisture and keeps the animal cool for longer (something which is important in the African heat). Typically, the donriphiant walks in an upright stance and uses the large pads on the soles of its feet for stability, though it can run for short bursts on four legs. It has a short green-tipped tail, which is covered in coarse, wiry hairs, and is used for balance. Two arm-like limbs help it to climb trees, and its hands are capable of gripping and utilising tools. Its long neck is useful when gathering vegetation, and strong, flexible muscles allow the creature to extend its neck by a further 8-10 inches, when needed. The donriphiant has two long ears which primarily function as cooling devices. As temperatures climb, the donriphiant rotates its ears in a circular motion to cool the head and trunk. The donriphiant has acute hearing. Many animals have fairly limited vision and so donriphants rely upon their keen sense of hearing to protect themselves from predators. Although the trunk functions mainly for breathing, it is also used for grasping, feeding, smelling, drinking, making sounds and for protection. It grows an inch for every year of the creature's life until they reach maturity.



The donriphiant is found only in Africa, though fossils of a mammal similar to the donriphiant have been found in South America. Mainly found living in herds, the donriphiant is well adapted to live in a hot, dry climate and, like a camel, it can store fat to keep it nourished on long journeys. The animal's body is designed to reach the leaves and branches from the top of trees. Typically, an adult male will eat around 30-35kg of leaves a day. Leaves provide the donriphiant with some of its water and the rest is consumed at the watering holes, often in large groups.

Due to its large size, the donriphiant has very few predators. Hyenas will often work in packs to separate young, or weak, animals from the rest of the herd. In some circumstances, lions will target a lone donriphiant, though are unlikely to pursue a herd. Adult deaths are more likely to be caused by crocodiles, which strike in the rivers and watering holes.