

ZULU CATTLE COLOURINGS

Information collected by C.G. Blamey

ZULU

MNYAMA

IMPEMVU MNYAMA

IXILA

QOLA

LUNGA

UMHLANGWE

WABA

NKONE MNYAMA

INALA

INZIMAKAZI

INZIMANYAMA

IBOMVU

UBENDE

UFIPA

ENTUSI

INCO

INSASA

INSIPU

NKONE IBOMVU

IMPEMVU

INHLAMVUKAZI

IMPOFU

MAQANDA

INYALOTI

INGWEVU

INZOTO

INSUNDA

IMQUNGU

English

Blacks

Black with white face

Black with white on throat

Black with white marking on rump

Black and white

White with black spots

Black with white flanks

Black with white spots on back and face

Black with speckled flank

Black cow

Black ox

Red

Blood red

Dark chestnut – red almost brown

Red with white flank

Red and white – very marked

Red and white flecked

Strawberry

Red with white spots along back and face

Red with white face

Red cow

Yellow

Fawn with white egg-shaped markings on flank

Dun

Blue

Brown with white markings

Brown

Brindle

IMPUNGA

Grey

QIZA

White on fetlock

EMHLOPE

White

NTINJANA

Dun with white marking

NYONIKAYPUMULE

Milk white Royal Zulu King's herd.

The most famous and guarded by the Zulu nation, of all their cattle.

Colouration: Milk-white hair with grey blotches on the skin visible under the hair.

History: When Shaka became King of the Zulu's, he built his kraal on the right side of the Mhodi stream - a tributary of the Mkubane – and called his new kraal kwa Bulwayo.

Shaka was a man of fine taste, so, wanting cattle, he crossed the Mtonjaneni heights and visited his distant relative Madlokovu of the ema Ngadine clan at Mfulu. This native was in possession of some greatly admired cattle. Shaka requested a present and was (given six heifers, one ox and one bull. With these Shaka bred up his subsequently famous milk-white herd, known as the Nyonikaypumule. All cattle in Zululand similarly coloured, i.e. milk-white, were considered his, and his impis collected them for Shaka.

The existence of this herd is preserved. It was confiscated from Pinuzulu after the treason trials but is preserved at Tokozi, in the Nongoma district, at the Experimental station there.