

# A World Record Roosevelt Sable

By PH Jason Stone

*It had been a hard morning in the Selous Game Reserve tracking a small group of buffalo bulls. They'd gotten our wind just as we were ready to shoot, and took off running. As we were getting low on water and it was starting to heat up, it was time to make the two-hour trek back to the vehicle.*

During the drive back to camp for lunch, I was thinking about how the buffalo had given us the slip when my tracker, Michael, banged on the roof of the Land Cruiser, which brought us to a stop. "Sable," he said excitedly.

The herd was about 700 yards off to our right in an open plain. They hadn't seen us and their heads were down, grazing on the fresh grass that was sprouting up everywhere after the early burns and heavy morning dew. It's unusual to catch sable out in the open in the middle of the day. Normally, they look for shade and take it easy until the heat of the day burns off. After a morning of chasing after buffalo, Lady Luck seemed to be on our side.

We glassed the herd from the truck and decided to take a closer look, as there were two bulls that looked as if they had potential lagging behind the herd. The wind was blowing steadily in our faces as we set off using the sparse cover available to us to get closer. We shortened the distance to about 300 metres without their so much as looking in our direction. We wouldn't be able to get much closer as there was no more cover between them and us.

Both bulls were in the 39-inch class – good, but not the 40-incher Bill Heard was looking



***The Roosevelt sable is slightly smaller in both body and horn size than the common sable. Heard's new SCI#1 Roosevelt sable had horns that measured 46-2/8 inches on both sides.***

for. (The Roosevelt sable, found through the Selous and Kilombero Valley, is slightly smaller

in both body and horn size than its cousin, the common sable.) I'd hunted the area the