

## BROADHEAD PERFORMANCE

the Martin Brute was used only as a single blade head but also accepts the Bear type bleeder blade insert and may well be a good choice as a multiblade broadhead for whitetail size animals.

It appears that once one leaves the deer class animals (and even on a large mule deer) a tough single blade broadhead should be the choice. Most of the tougher single blade heads performed well, but most also occasionally failed when heavy bone was encountered at an oblique angle.

Three broadheads took all we could throw at them and finished all the tests undamaged. Each gave outstanding performance. What were the "best of the best". One was the old Ben Pearson Deadhead. No longer in production, it performed flawlessly. A second excellent performer was the Maxi-Head, a long concave single blade with a serrated edge. My own personal choice for the award of the best broadhead tested is the Grizzly. A large, long, tough broadhead with a length three times its width. This broadhead is available in two hardnesses, Rockwell 44 and 55, and in several weights. Only the 190 grain weight was tested. Only one shot was taken with the 44 hardness, and the tip was very slightly flattened, this after penetrating a wildebeeste shoulder blade on a neck-shoulder shot. Penetration was 12 inches. Only one non-lethal hit was recorded with the Grizzly head, this on a zebra. To quote the field recording, this shot went "through the thickest part of the scapula (one inch of bone), into a rib, did not reach into thorax . . ." On none of the shots was the 55 hardness Grizzly damaged, and some remarkable shots were recorded. For example: "zebra, through scapula, into spine, cut spinal cord, head penetrated 3" into spine . . ."; "nyala, through scapula into spine, cut spinal cord . . ."; "wildebeeste, neck-shoulder shot, through scapula, through thorax, cut rib on opposite side . . ."; "bushbuck, hit right gut, cut left femur below ball joint, exited left hip . . ."

Progressively more difficult shots were taken with the Grizzly broadhead in an attempt to find the limits of its performance. It recorded a remarkable 95.8% lethal hits on the toughest shots I could devise, and was 100% lethal on that tough neck-shoulder shot (and 75% of those neck-shoulder shots were on the toughest animal tested, the wildebeeste).

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the Natal Parks Board for making this testing possible, and to thank Tony Tomkinson personally for all he has done to advance bowhunting in Africa. It is encouraging to know that there exist game departments willing to do research and find answers before proposing laws that may prove detrimental and/or difficult to change once in place.

One of the goals of our test was to determine if restrictions should be placed on what type of broadhead should be used on what class of animal. My recommendation, based upon these test results, is that multiblade broadheads not be allowed for use on animals larger than nyala (large mule deer size). Certainly larger animals can be taken cleanly with multiblade broadheads when everything goes perfect, but if your bowhunting goes like mine, well . . . I need all the help I can get.

As long as the very fastest of arrows travels not much over 250 fps, and most less than 200 fps, and animals move faster than the arrow, no archer can guarantee where his shot will hit. We each owe it to the animals we hunt to use equipment capable of making a clean kill when things don't go just as we planned. That includes adequate bow weight, tough, well constructed broadheads with a well-sharpened edge, and adequate arrow mass.