

Direct observation of upward leaders from the earth during a thunderstorm in South Africa

Dear Sir,

The following observation was made at Hlulune, Zululand, South Africa, December 11, 1951, and might be of interest to you.

Around six o'clock in the afternoon a very severe thunderstorm began. As usual in South Africa the storm came very suddenly, the sky turned black and the lightning strokes came with very short intervals from all directions. They blinded one's eyes completely. A very heavy shower followed with big hailstones. We were living up on a hill and there are mountains and hills all

around the horizon: the northern parts of big Dragon-mountains. I was standing at the window watching, when the storm culminated around seven o'clock. Suddenly I saw a series of lightning strokes, that seemed to come straight up from the earth. It looked exceedingly strange. I saw them absolutely clearly and they seemed to be broader at the base and became more narrow upwards. Then a very intense lightning stroke blinded me completely and when I looked out again afterwards, the lightning strokes from the earth had disappeared.

Yours sincerely

KARIN FJÄLLBÄCK HOLMGREN