



# Sceptre with male figure eating a root

---

## **Not on display**

**Title/Description:** Sceptre with male figure eating a root

**Born:** 1900 c. - 1999 c.

**Object Type:** Implement

**Materials:** Elephant ivory, Organic matter

**Measurements:** h. 325 x w. 55 x d. 50 mm

**Accession Number:** 568

**Historic Period:** 20th century

**Production Place:** Africa, Congo, Kinshasha

**Cultural Group:** Kongo

---

This ivory sceptre is highly carved and depicts a seated male figure eating a root and holding a sheathed knife or sceptre. A snake is entwined round the base of the staff which clasps a lizard-like object in its teeth. The container which surmounts the sceptre was used to contain medicine, and a fragment of conus shell survives intact and may have originated from the Indian Ocean.

Helen Coleman

Entry written for VADS website ([www.vads.ac.uk](http://www.vads.ac.uk))

---

---

---

## **Provenance**

Purchased by Robert and Lisa Sainsbury from Merton D. Simpson, New York in 1974.

Accessioned into the Sainsbury Centre, University of East Anglia circa 1989.

---