

## **THE PREFERENCES FOR FOOD OF THE ROE DEERS**

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### **Abstract**

*Together with the wild Rabbit, the roe deer is the most widespread species of hunting interest in the hunting funds managed by AJVPS Bihor in the West part of Romania.*

*The debate of this study is based on the determination of differences and similarities in the food preferences offered to the rafter by the agricultural crops.*

*The Rafter's habit of selectively consuming food from agricultural crops has not been studied in our area until now in Bihor county, where the roe deer populations are considered as being a surplus.*

*The detailed knowledge of the selective feeding of the roe deer will lead us to a better understanding of the species, on one hand, while giving a greater possibility to the hunting fund manager to achieve better and faster results on the development of the roe deer, as species.*

*Last but not least, other peculiarities of the feeding of the roe deer may be followed, possibly adopting certain strategies specific to the rafters/roe deers who live in the plain and get fed differentiated.*

**Key words:** roe deers, flocks, agricultural crops, selective feeding

### **INTRODUCTION**

The main objective of this research is to discover the similarities and differences existing in the feeding of the rafters/roe deers in areas subjected to observation.

The ratio between the density of the plant species used as feed was determined exclusively for the vegetation existing on the territory subjected to observations.

It is obvious that a diverse and good quality of food allows fluctuations in the flocks and the development of their body mass but also on the quality of the trophy.

Also, the breeding capacity and the quality of the progeny vary under the influence of the quality of the food.

Following the same stream, we want to determine what kind of strategies can be tailored to the selective feeding of the roe deer during the different type of the vegetation seasons.

## **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

It has been established that 250-300 ha are located close to the roe deer feeding places where 5-10 m<sup>2</sup> sample squares were made.

In order to establish a correlation between the groups of rafters/roe deers living on these surfaces and their preferences for a certain type of food, the preferred feed index IPH was calculated:

$$\text{IPH} = \text{PSC} - \text{PST} / \text{PSC} + \text{PST}$$

where IPH - feed preference index

PSC - Percentage consumption of specific plants

PST - the total percentage of specific plants

In the next step, we identified the source of vegetation in the entire observed area every month, data that were recorded as the evolution of the vegetation period, taking into account the periods when some species were harvested (eg cereals).

The inventory species revealed how they were staggered both on a monthly basis and on vegetation periods, in percent, and the results were statistically interpreted by the "T" test.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The results of repeated examinations on feed preferences of the hood have shown that they are differentiated by seasons or even months of the calendar year.

Thus, during the cold season, both monocotyledonous and dicotyledonous plants did not fall into the category of preferred plants.

On the contrary, with the beginning of spring and until August, the degree of preference was very high.

An interesting aspect was determined by the alternation of preferences on monocotyledonous and dicotyledonous plants from September to October when they decreased again but increased insignificantly in November.

Consumption for grown monocotyledons was preferred during the winter-spring-to-spring food shortage.

In June, their consumption (monocotyledons) was not enlightening because their availability was not permanent.

It may be assumed that cereals, for example, are harvested in July - August. But in the autumn, however, after rising, they again draw the roe deer.

Particularly noteworthy is that the dicotyledonous species are preferred throughout the year, especially the clover crops.

High preferences for this species were found from May to October.

Concerning the consumption of woody plants, we can say that it was significantly positive throughout the year excepting January and February, when it was established as insignificant.

It should be noted that the interest in these species increased in April especially for shoots.

### CONCLUSIONS

The results obtained in this experiment confirm the results of other research, namely that the preferred plant species of the roe deer found in similar habitats are the same.

Another quality may be that there is a significant positive correlation between places frequented by roe deers or where the roe deer population is more concentrated and the preferred plant species.

Preferences for cultivated plants have not influenced movements of flocks in areas with spontaneous vegetation even though it was more diverse.

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