

STUDY OF WILD BOAR EVOLUTION IN THE BAGES REGION

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Introduction

The population of wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) has increased during the last decades in Catalonia, especially in the north-east quadrant of the country, which involves sanitary risks, damages in the crops or also traffic accidents. Bages is a region in the centre of Catalonia (fig.1) with a hydraulic and orographic structure formed by the rivers Llobregat and Cardener. Areas with a fragmented habitat, as it is a part of Bages, have been out of the official monitoring.

The **aim** of this study is to know how the populations of wild boar in Bages have evolved, what it would the advantages of applying concrete population control measures for the region. It starts from the **hypothesis** that the north-east area of Bages presents a major density than the rest of the region.

Materials and methods

The **origin of the information** is the statistics from the Hunting and Continental Fishing Section of Activities in Barcelona from the Department of Agriculture, Farming and Fishing (DARP). The obtained information is: register of the private area of hunting (APC), name, surface, township, captures during the period 2000-2015 [n=12.769]. Each APC has been identified in the territory by the cartographic viewer of hunting areas of DARP [n=47, 85.330 ha (78%)] (fig.1).

The data **treatment** has been: graphic representation of the evolution of the number of captures, elaboration of three maps for the evolution of the captures distribution in the APC study, estimation of the density in the period 2012-2015 with the method described by Sáez-Royuela and Tellería (1988).

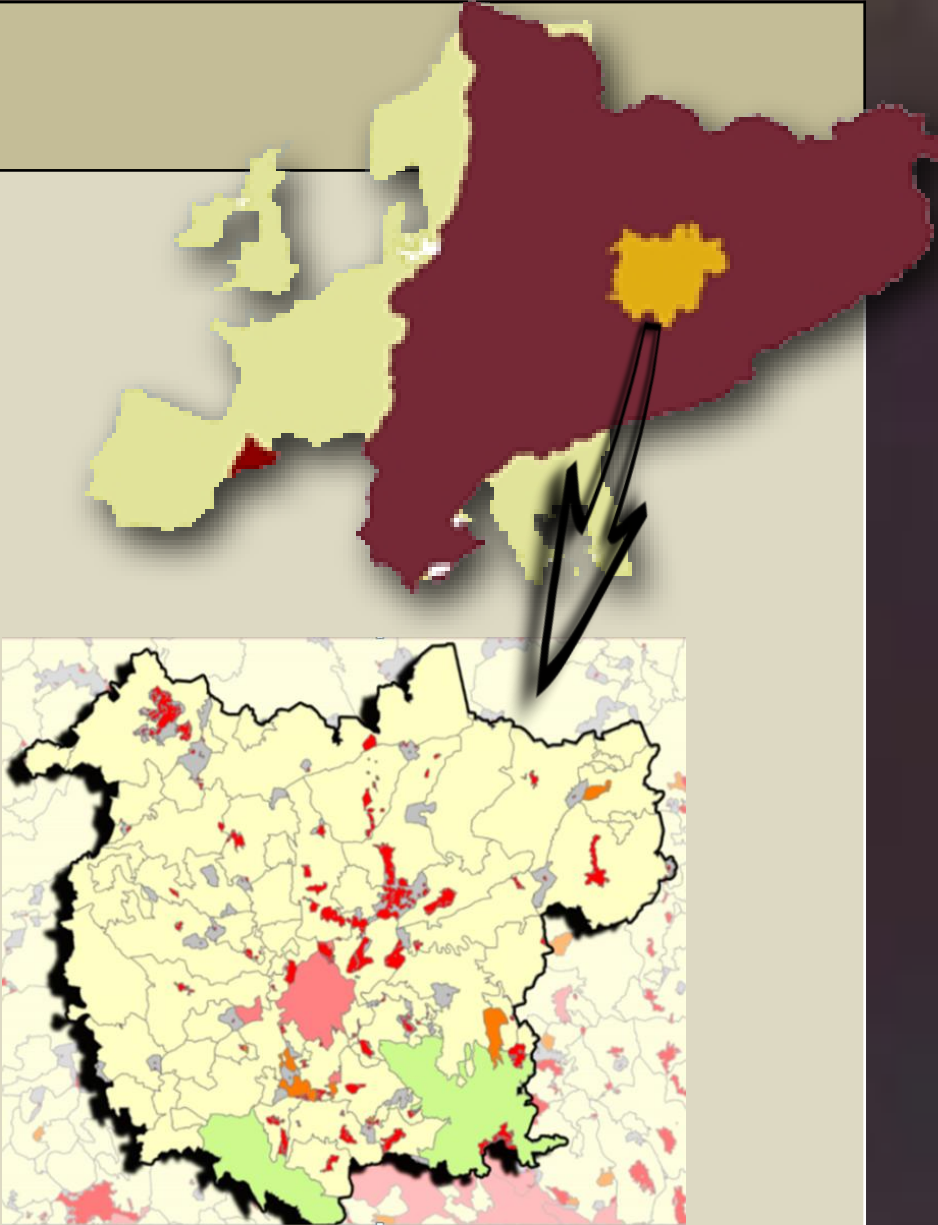


Figure 1: Localization of Bages (over) and view of the cartographic viewer of hunting (below).

Results

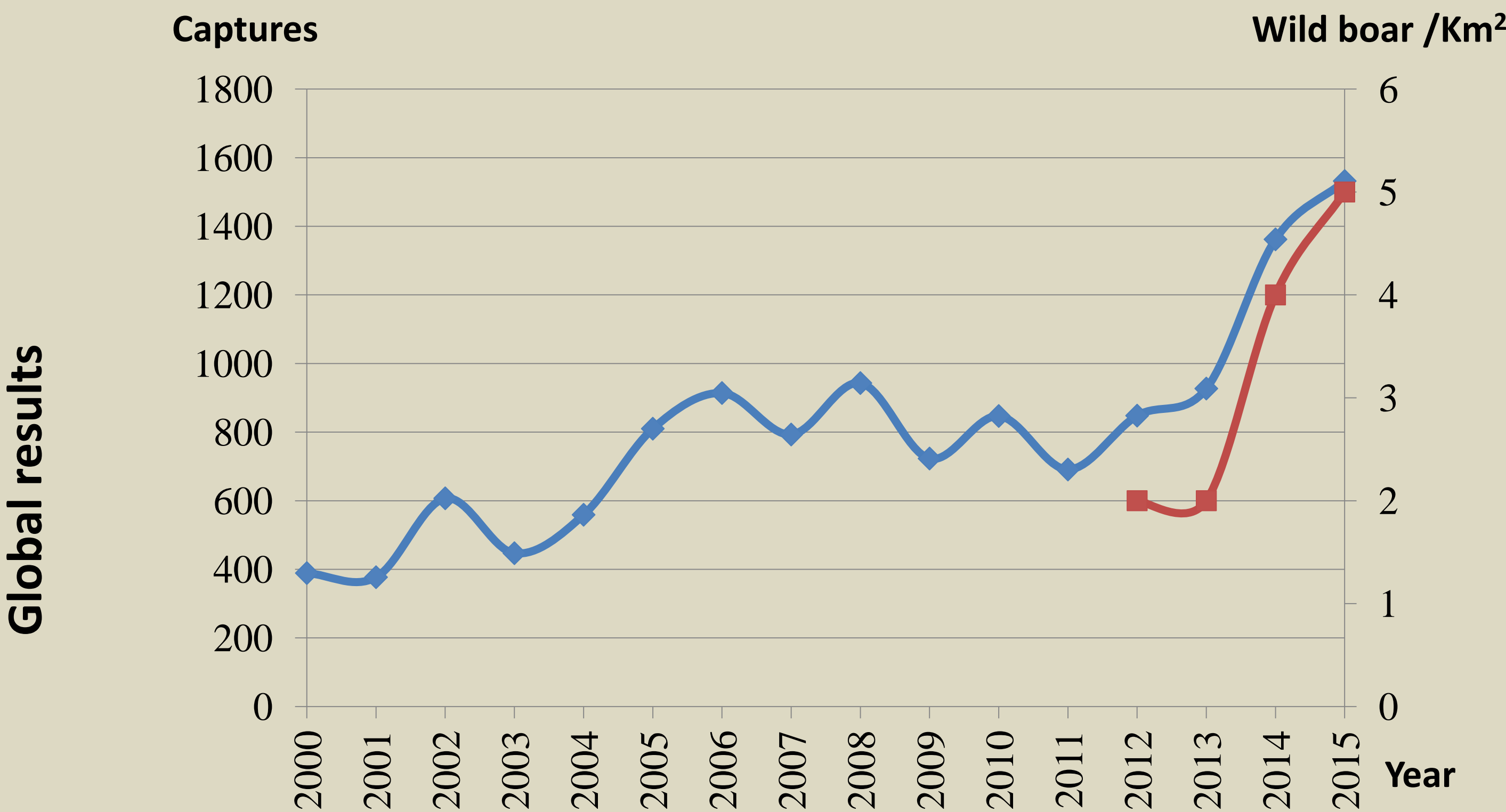


Figure 2: Evolution of the captures during the period of the study (blue). Esteem of the global density of the region (red). Source: own.

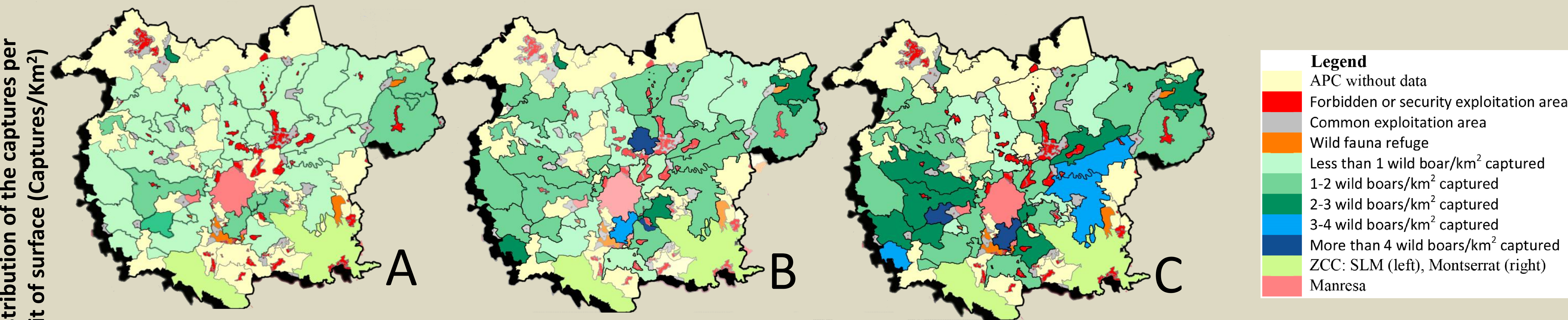


Figure 3: Evolution of the distribution of the captures per unit of surface in Bages. A, 2000-2005; B, 2005-2013; C, 2013-14. Source: own.

Discussion

- This project has to be understood as an approximation because it presents a lot of skew factors.
- The evolution of the quadrant north-west of the region it cannot be interpreted because of the lack of data.
- There is a current big problem with the damage in the vineyard farming (*Vitis vinifera*). Whit this study we can notice the existence of a conflict between the people and the wild boar.
- In the case of Bages, the population control is through the reduction of the jungle environments nearby the mountain ranges and rivers where it is settled, for example using animals which clean the understory, closing estates which are near the high-density core in order to avoid the damage and take advantage of the sources, and maintaining the hunting, which is probably going to become professional in the future.

Conclusions

The evolution of the wild boar in the region of Bages presents a clear ascending tendency with a major density and distribution in the south-east area, which wasn't expected. This leads us again not to hesitate about the exploratory capacities, habitat conquests and sources exploitation of this animal.

References

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Sáez-Royuela, C. y Tellería, J. L. (1988). Las batidas como método de censo en especies de caza mayor: aplicación del caso del Jabalí (*Sus scrofa* L.) en la provincia de Burgos (Norte de España). Doñana, Acta Vertebrata, 15 (2): 215-223.

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