

SEASONAL ENDOPARASITE LOAD OF TWO MOUNTAIN UNGULATES WITH CONTRASTED FEEDING BEHAVIOR

UAB



FACULTAT DE VETERINÀRIA

JUNE 2025

EXPERIMENTAL FDP BY ARNAU VALLMITJANA PALMA

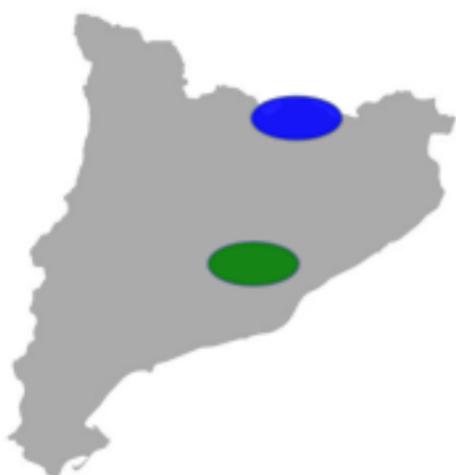
OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this study are to compare the monthly distribution of the gastrointestinal parasite load, diet palatability and primary production assessment on two ungulates populations; to analyze if there is a significative monthly effect on these parameters; and to check if there is a correlation between the gastrointestinal parasite load and the feeding behavior of the two populations.



MATERIALS AND METHODS

A *Capra pyrenaica* population in Montserrat Natural Park and a *Rupicapra pyrenaica* population in the FSNGR were studied between 2018 and 2023. Their parasite load (FEC and *Eimeria* spp) was tested as well as the diet quality (FN) and the primary production (NDVI) of their environments.



RESULTS

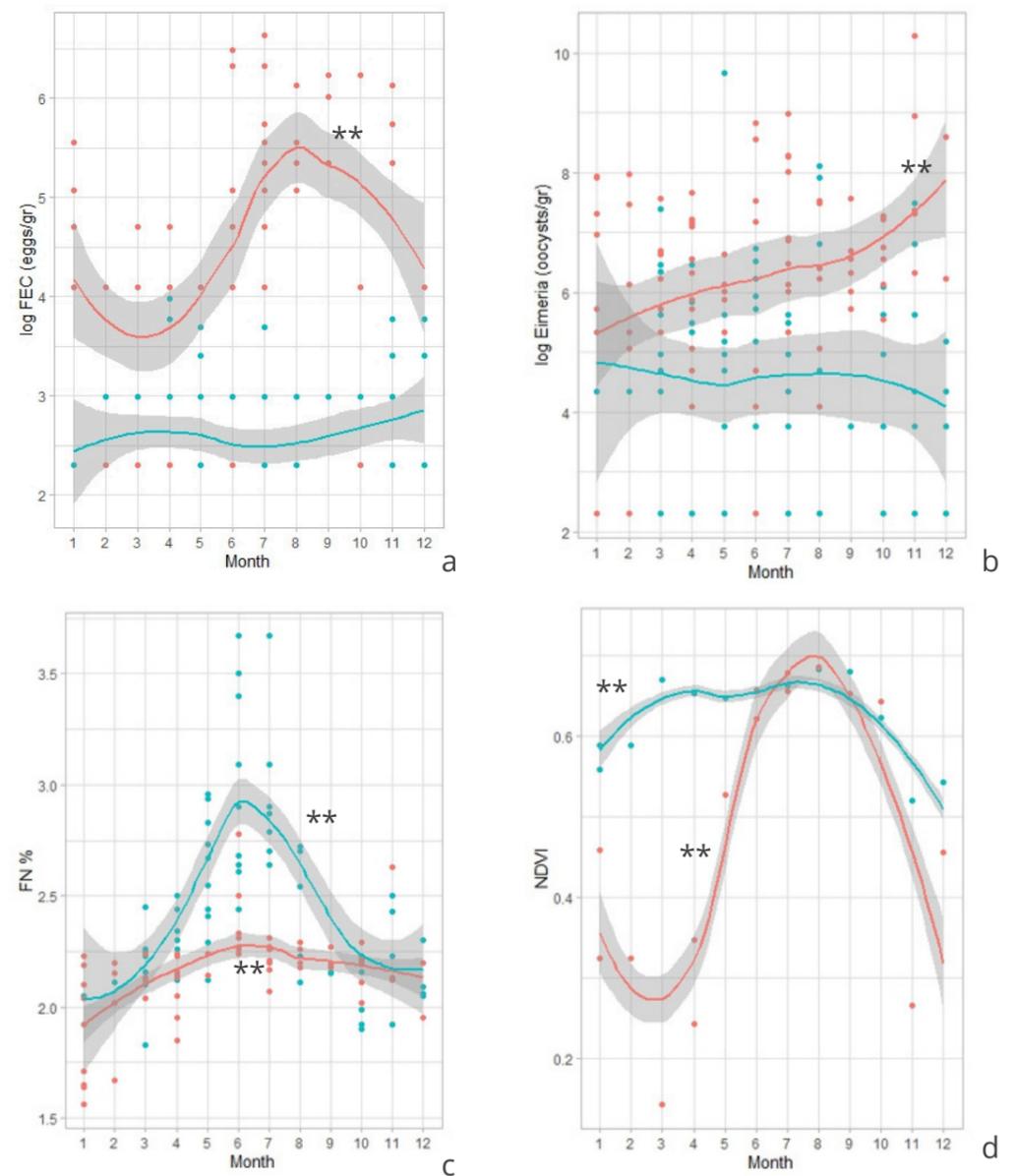


Figure 1: Monthly distribution of the obtained results for the FEC (a), *Eimeria* spp load (b), FN percentage (c) and NDVI (d) in the Iberian ibex population (blue) and the Pyrenean chamois population (red). ** = p-value < 0.01

CONCLUSIONS

Most of the research performed on the subject had a similar outcome, showing a seasonal effect on all the parameters studied in this article, the gastrointestinal parasite load, the diet palatability and the vegetation metabolic stage. In this study, though, results did not coincide with the previous research, as the Iberian ibex population had no significant relation between the gastrointestinal parasite load (either FEC or *Eimeria* spp) and a monthly effect. These results can be explained by the ecology of the species and the environment they live on, as there are no pastures in the area and the animals do not graze, which is one of the main ways to get infected by these parasites. This highlights the importance of taking all the factors into account when predicting effects on wildlife populations and can probably be applied to the study of many wildlife diseases.