

# Diet of the Wild Boar in a protected area of Argentina

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Introduction in Argentina: 1906 for hunting  
 Escape, dispersal and colonization: Argentina, Chile, Uruguay



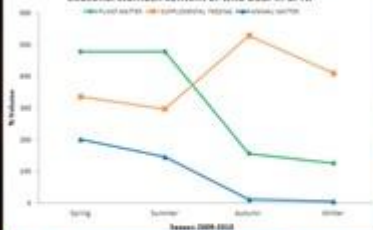
*Sus scrofa* is native to Eurasia and north Africa

## Background

- National Park El Palmar (EPNP)
- Conservation of native palm: *Syagrus yatai*
- Negative impact on native biodiversity
- Control hunting: since 1983
- Invasive Exotic Mammals Control Plan: 1996
- Species: Wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) and Axis deer (*Axis axis*)
- Methods: shooting from high seats at bait stations, with hunting dogs and ground shooting



Seasonal stomach content of wild boar in EPNP



Corn which is accounted for almost 34%, is artificially incorporated to the ecosystem as bait in hunting sites. On average, corn was the most selected item during the warmer months, while the rest of the plant matter and animal matter was consumed in less proportion.

## Conclusion and discussion

- Wild boar have a wide spectrum of items in the diet
- The diet of the wild boar is composed of a large amount of animal matter during spring-summer months
- Wild boar use a large portion of animal matter compared to other areas of the world
- Is the wild boar an active predator of birds?
- Supplemental feeding seems to be replaced by native diet items in autumn and winter
- Corn could be supporting the wild boar populations in scarce food resources periods?

What are the implications of diet in the management of this invasive species?

During 2009-2010 hunting season, stomach contents of 38 specimens hunted as part of a Control Plan of Exotic Mammals were collected to evaluate the diet of wild boar in EPNP

Items	% Volume (dry weight)	% Occurrence
Plant matter	79.29	97.22
<b>Fruits</b>	21.35	52.77
Indeterminate	0.22	11.11
<i>Syagrus yatai</i> (yatay palm)	14.82	36.56
<i>Hexachlamys edulis</i> (ubajay)	5.01	13.89
<i>Pyrcantha angustifolia</i> (castaño)	1.30	5.56
<b>Leaves</b>	18.54	88.90
<b>Roots</b>	2.14	30.56
<b>Seeds</b>	3.09	36.11
Indeterminate	0.29	25.01
<i>Syagrus yatai</i> (yatay palm)	0.31	13.89
<i>Avena sativa</i> (common oat)	2.49	11.11
<b>Wood</b>	0.01	8.33
<b>Supplemental feeding</b>		
Zea mays	33.76	72.22
Animal matter	20.72	75.00
<b>Mammals</b>	0.06	08.33
Indeterminate tissue	0.05	08.33
Hairs	0.01	02.78
<b>Birds</b>	19.34	44.44
Indeterminate tissue	0.22	05.56
Columbiformes	18.68	30.56
Passeriformes	0.41	05.56
Feathers	0.03	05.56
<b>Amphibians</b>	0.12	2.78
<b>Invertebrates</b>	1.21	66.67
Earthworms	0.03	05.56
Larvae	1.18	58.33
Arthropods	0.02	19.44
<b>Others</b>		
Stones	trace	5.56

The diet of wild boar comprised 79% of vegetable matter and 21% of animal matter. Vegetable items consumed were mostly fruits (21%), especially the yatay palm (*Syagrus yatai*) and leaves (19%). Animal items consumed were mainly birds (19%), especially from the Columbiformes order.

