

Spatial Occupation of the Wild Boar 'Sus Scrofa Algirus' in the Oasis of Southern Tunisia: The Continental Oasis of Kebili and the Coastal Oasis of Gabes

Authors : Ghandri Aida

Abstract : The wild boar 'Sus scrofa algirus' is an invasive species that has a significant invasive potential allowing it to colonize the agroecosystems of southern Tunisia. In fact, these agroecosystems contain sites with high tranquility-refuge value (refuge zones) which are very attractive for this Suidae thanks to the very dense vegetation (reed beds on the outskirts of the oases and the border areas of the wadis and chotts) and the almost impenetrability for man. When this species is present in abundance, it could cause severe ecological and socio-economic damage. The present work aims to analyze the spatial distribution of this species in the oases of southern Tunisia, namely the coastal oases of Gabès and the continental oases of Kébili, using GLMMs (generalized linear mixed models). In particular, it aims to evaluate the influence of certain landscape factors and vegetation on the occurrence of this harmful species. Our results suggest that the spatial occupancy of wild boar in Tunisian oases essentially depends on proximity to the nearest roads as a repelling factor as well as irrigation, the proportion of cereal cultivation and proximity to areas of refuge as attractive factors.

Keywords : sus scrofa algirus, occurrence, GLMM, oasis of southern tunisia

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