

Variation of diet quality of male Alpine ibex in relation to morphological and sanitary parameters

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We studied Alpine ibex (*Capra ibex*, L., 1758). in the Levionaz Valley in Valsavarenche (Gran Paradiso National Park) The aim of this study was to evaluate their sanitary and morphological conditions through the analysis of their diet. This study was based on faecal samples collected between may 25th and November 1st 2001. We measured the content of crude proteins (CP) and neutral detergent fibre (NDF) using the Kjeldahl and the Dumas combustion methods Content of ashes was measured as a correction factor. CP and NDF were related with collection date, body mass age and the number of eggs of gastrointestinal parasites found in the faeces (Fecal egg counts). CP and NDF changed linearly during the summer in accordance with the repining process of plants. We found significant variation among individuals in CP. CP increased with age and decreased with body mass. ler amount in faecal materials. The correlation between crude protein concentration and the amount of nematodes' eggs in faecal material was not significant. Our results show that there is a certain individual variability in diet quality in adult male alpine ibex and that this variation is affected by body conditions.