

Effects of ambient temperature on foraging behaviour of male Alpine ibex (*Capra ibex*): A Preliminary Analysis.

Aublet, J.F. and Festa-Bianchet M.

Departement de biologie, Université de Sherbrooke, Canada

We monitored the behavior of adult male Alpine ibex in the Gran Paradiso National Park to assess the effects of ambient temperature and individual mass on the time spent foraging during daylight hours. We watched marked males continuously for 6-14 hours a day, for 6268 ibex-hours. Ibex spent more time feeding early in the morning and late in the evening than at midday. In hot days, ibex foraged for as little as 10% of daylight hours. In cool days, they foraged for up to 50% of the time. We suggest that when days are warm, ibex males spend more time foraging at night. Body mass was negatively correlated with time spent foraging during the 2004 summer but not during the hot summer of 2003.