
Poster Session 1 – Population Dynamics

52 Estimating the absolute abundance of rodents and their mammalian predators from camera traps in the southern Yukon, Canada

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Camera trapping has been used largely to determine presence or absence of large vertebrates, and the question of whether it can ever be used to estimate absolute abundance is an open one. We will report on 6 years of research in the southwest Yukon, Canada, to determine if camera images can reflect absolute abundance of mice, voles, red squirrels and snowshoe hares. For these smaller vertebrates the answer is yes. We have now embarked on a larger question of whether cameras can detect and census larger vertebrates in the boreal forests of the Kluane Lake area, Yukon. We have deployed remote cameras on game trails year-round to capture images of all vertebrates including bears, bison, wolves, wolverine, coyotes, lynx and marten and we report on progress here. We are doubtful that we can recognize individuals of most of these species for standard mark-recapture estimates. We are testing new methods of determining density of unmarked animals with camera trap photos. Many of these predator species fluctuate in numbers dramatically in response to the 10-year hare cycle, but others are more stable. The eyes of cameras may be an important technique to provide data 24/7 on the state of this boreal forest ecosystem under rapidly shifting climate in northwestern Canada.

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Jens Jacob, Jana Eccard (Editors)

6th International Conference of Rodent
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16th Rodens et Spatium

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Book of Abstracts



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