

Habitat selection and occurrence analysis of “*Scimitar horned Oryx*” according to vegetation cover characteristics in Bouhedma National Park, Southern Tunisia.

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Abstract: *Scimitar Horned Oryx* is a wild ungulate species disappeared from Tunisian areas since 1902. Some reintroduction projects in national parks has been undertaken since many decades in context of rehabilitation and reconstitution programs of this species.

On the basis of field investigation and statistical models, this study was carried out. It aims to analyze the habitat selection of *Scimitar horned Oryx* population reintroduced in Bouhedma National park located in southern Tunisia during two seasons (winter 2011 and spring 2012) and to identify the phytoecological factors affecting their occurrence. Multivariate analyses of variance (MANOVA) performed by SAS package confirmed the preference of *Scimitar-horned-Oryx*, in terms of vegetation, to the most diversified areas of Bouhedma national park. These analyses revealed also that this species avoids glaze and mountain areas despite the presence of palatable species such as *Stipagrostis tenacissima*. Thus, High affinity to grass species, such as *Digitaria commutata*, *Cenchrus ciliaris* and *Stipagrostis ssp* was noted.

References

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