

Population Dynamics, Structure, and Behaviour of Mouflon (*Ovis musimon*, SCHREBER 1782) in the Capraia Island, Italy

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Abstract: The number dynamics of the mouflon on the Capraia Island (the Tuscan Arcipelago) was studied during the period 2002-2006. The counting results revealed a stable trend towards increasing in numbers in 2002-2004, followed by almost constant number during the rest of the studied period. The mouflon inhabits about 1500 ha with a density varying from 2.27 ind./100 ha in 2002 to 7.90 ind./100 ha in 2004. Part of the adult animals varied in different years, falling from 65.2% in 2002 to 46.7% in 2006 at the expense of the parts of the second and third age groups, which increased. The differences between the spring and autumn numbers were insignificant. On the grounds of the obtained data we could conclude that the mean annual growth during the studied period was 23.9%. A significant difference ($P \leq 0.01$) was found in the male herds in the different seasons as well as in the mixed herds, consisting of males, females and lambs ($P \leq 0.05$), and in the third type of herds – mothers with lambs.

Key words: Mouflon, *Ovis musimon*, Capraia, Population dynamics