

A movement-data based analysis of intraspecific cheetah male fights in Namibia

Gregor Lojewski, Bachelor Thesis

Abstract

Cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*) exhibit a unique male social system with two main strategies: territory-holding residents and non-territorial floaters. These strategies play a key role in intraspecific conflicts, particularly when floaters attempt to take over territories. While anecdotal evidence suggests floaters only provoke fights when numerically superior, empirical data are lacking. This thesis investigates the social cohesion of male coalitions and their role in conflict initiation based on GPS data from Namibia. It aims to determine (1) whether coalition members consistently remain together, (2) if floaters initiate conflicts primarily under advantageous numerical conditions, and (3) the temporal and spatial dynamics between provocation and physical confrontation. This study contributes to understanding cheetah behavior by offering quantitative evidence on spatial movement and social strategies, thereby enhancing knowledge of intraspecific competition.





2017-10-31 5:07:07 PM M 1/3

20°C



HC600 HYPERFIRE

RECONYA

