

## **Preliminary analysis of the diet of wild boar (*Sus scrofa* L., 1758) in an agro-ecosystem of central Punjab, Pakistan**

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DOI: 10.5073/jka.2011.432.129

During the present study, 86 wild boars (*Sus scrofa*) were killed to examine their stomach contents in central Punjab, Pakistan. Stomach contents were found to be correlated with feeding sites, plant material, and the nature of food material and items consumed from both cultivated and non-cultivated lands. Stomach contents of these specimens revealed that 33 types of food items were consumed of which *Triticum aestivum*, *Saccharum officinarum*, *Zea mays*, *Oryza sativa*, earthworms and *Prosopis juliflora* were main staples. The major components of the wild boar's diet in central Punjab originated from cultivated crops (58%), non-cultivated crops (30%), animal matter (9%) and unidentified matter (3%). Wheat was the most intensively consumed item; it contributed 23% of the total dry weight of stomach contents. *O. sativa* was most intensively consumed item during autumn and followed by *Z. mays* and *S. officinarum*. In winter, the most important food items were *T. aestivum*, *S. officinarum* and earthworms. During spring, again wheat was the most intensively eaten item. *Prosopis juliflora* was the main food in summer; unidentified origin was regularly represented in the seasonal samples of stomach contents.

Keywords: central Punjab, food items, season, wild boar