



Balkan lynx Biology, Ecology & Behaviour

Recent findings from BLRP I,II and SCOPES

Description & Morphology

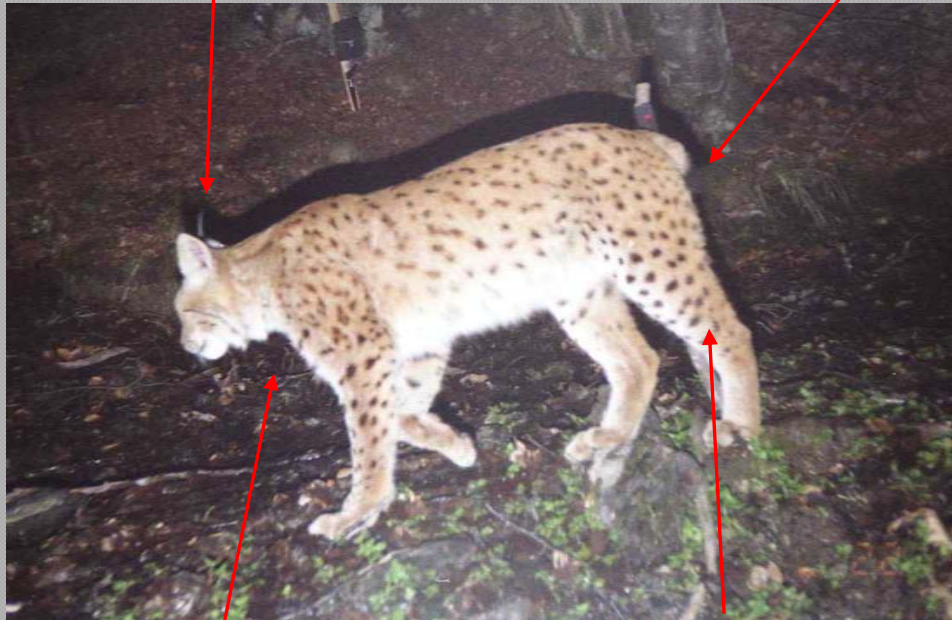
Biology & Life history

Habitat & Land tenure system

Feeding ecology

round head

short black-tipped tail



triangular ears with black tufts



short neck

long legs

large feet



Claws:

- sharp, strong, and hooked
- retractile



usually not mark in footprint



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Pelt colour greyish to reddish

4 coat patterns:

- large spots,
- small spots,
- rosettes,
- unspotted



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70-130 cm



~ 65 cm

Males: 12-35 kg; Females smaller and ~25 % lighter than males

Marko (capture)	21 kg
Marko (recapture)	25 kg
Riste (capture)	17 kg

Skull round and high

Short snout

High biting force of the canines

Dental formula:

$$I \frac{3}{3} C \frac{1}{1} P \frac{2}{2} M \frac{1}{1} = 28$$



Activity

Lynx are mainly active at dusk and at night, and rest during daytime (except rutting season)

Distance travelled per night: 1-45 km

Females with kittens usually only travel short distances

When a lynx has a fresh kill, it stays in its proximity for several days



Reproduction

Mating: February to mid-April

Birth: after 67-74 days (usually in late May), kittens weight about 300g

Litter size: 1-5, most often 2-3 kittens

Separation: at the age of 10 months



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Lynx density

Under natural conditions, it depends on habitat productivity and prey availability, and is limited through social interactions among individuals

In the cultivated landscape, man is the ultimate limiting factor

Some examples:

Poland: 1.9-3.2 ind./100 km²

Switzerland: 0.94-2.10 ind./100 km²

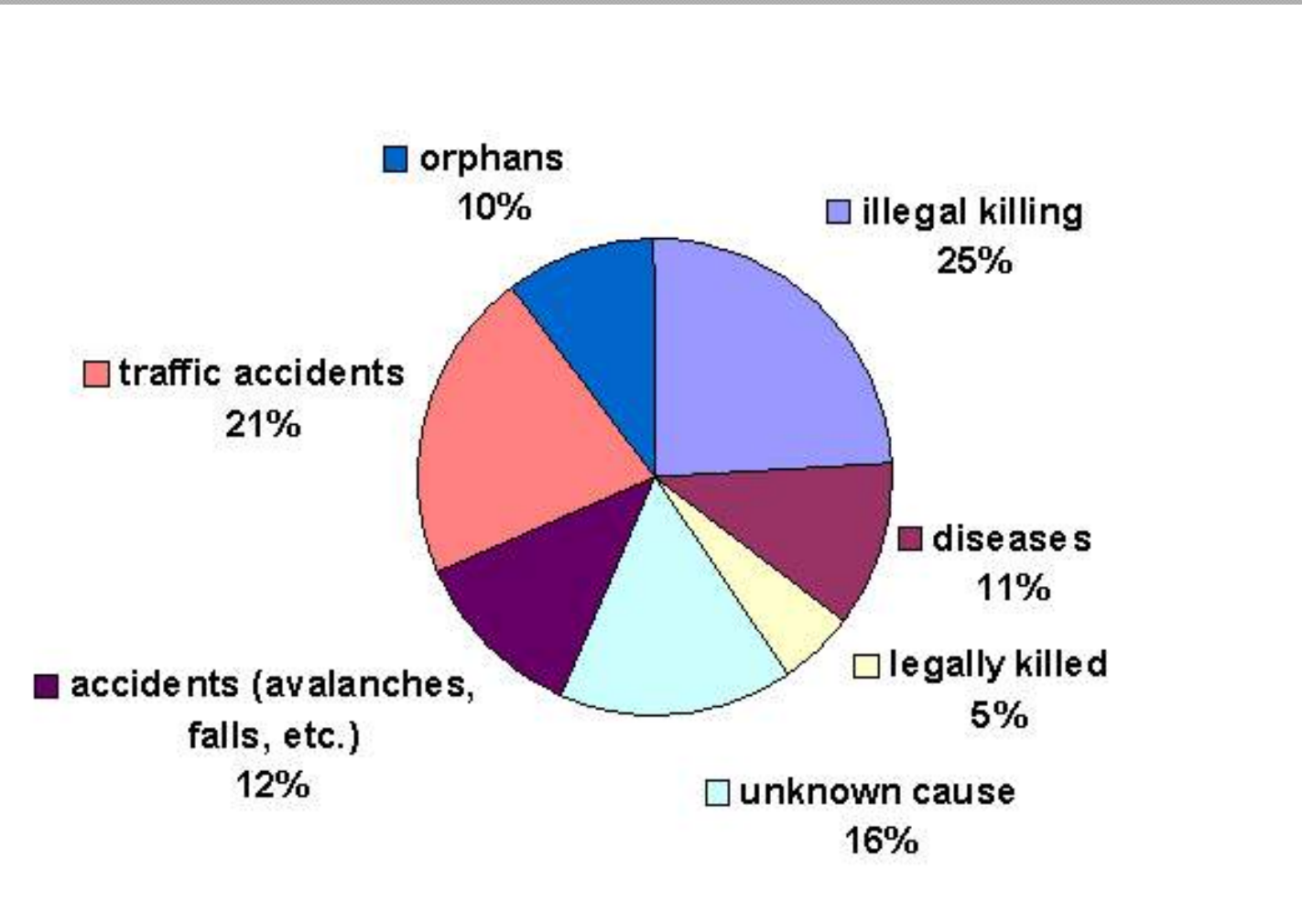
Southern Norway: 0.25 ind./100 km²

Macedonia: 0.80-0.84 ind./100 km²

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Mortality

(discovered mortality in Switzerland, N=202)



Mortality in MK & AL: **direct persecution**; **traffic accidents**???

**Description &
Morphology**

**Biology &
Life history**

**Habitat &
Land tenure system**

Feeding ecology

Habitat



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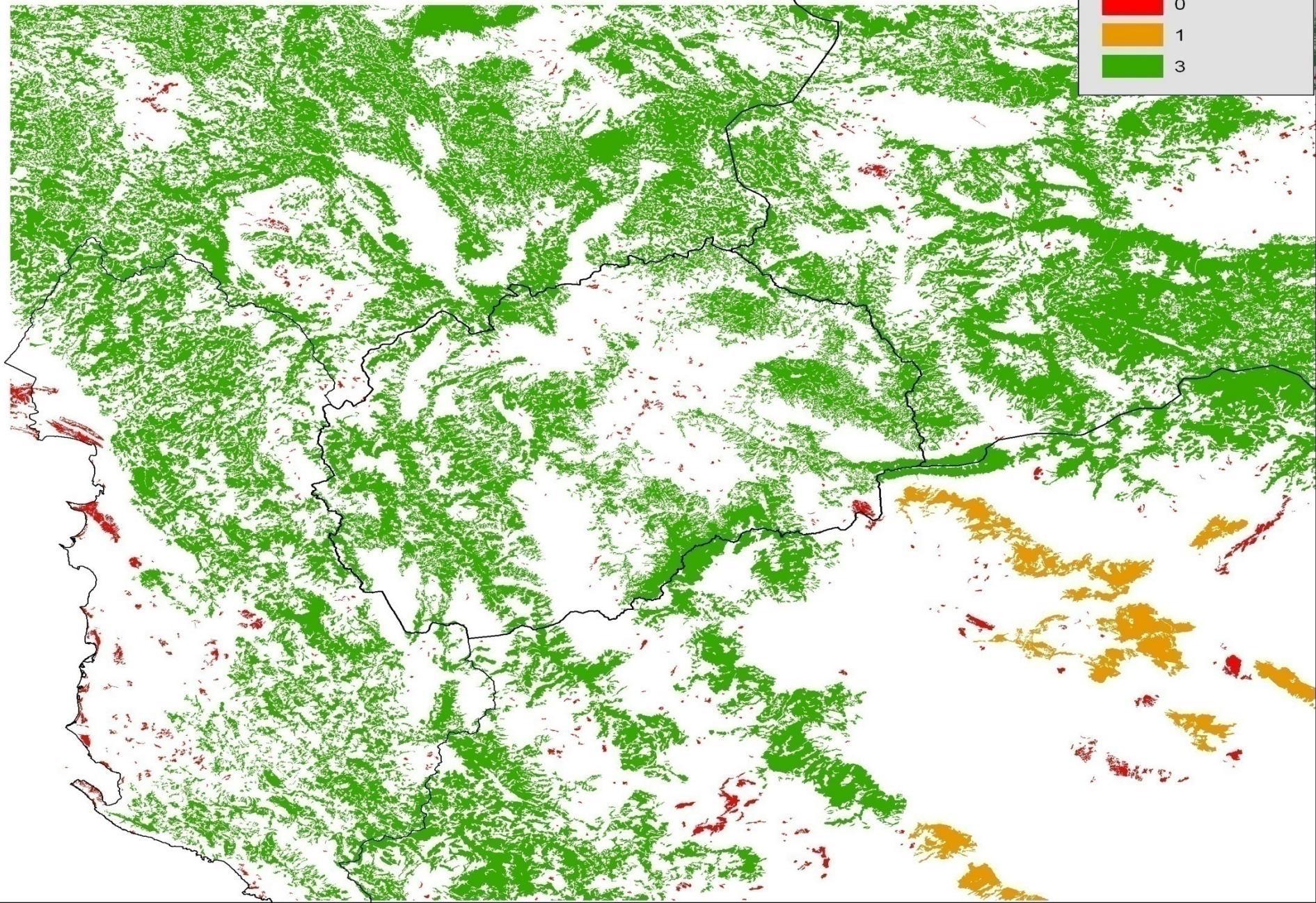
Feeding ecology



Habitats derived from CORINE 2000 (all types of forests)

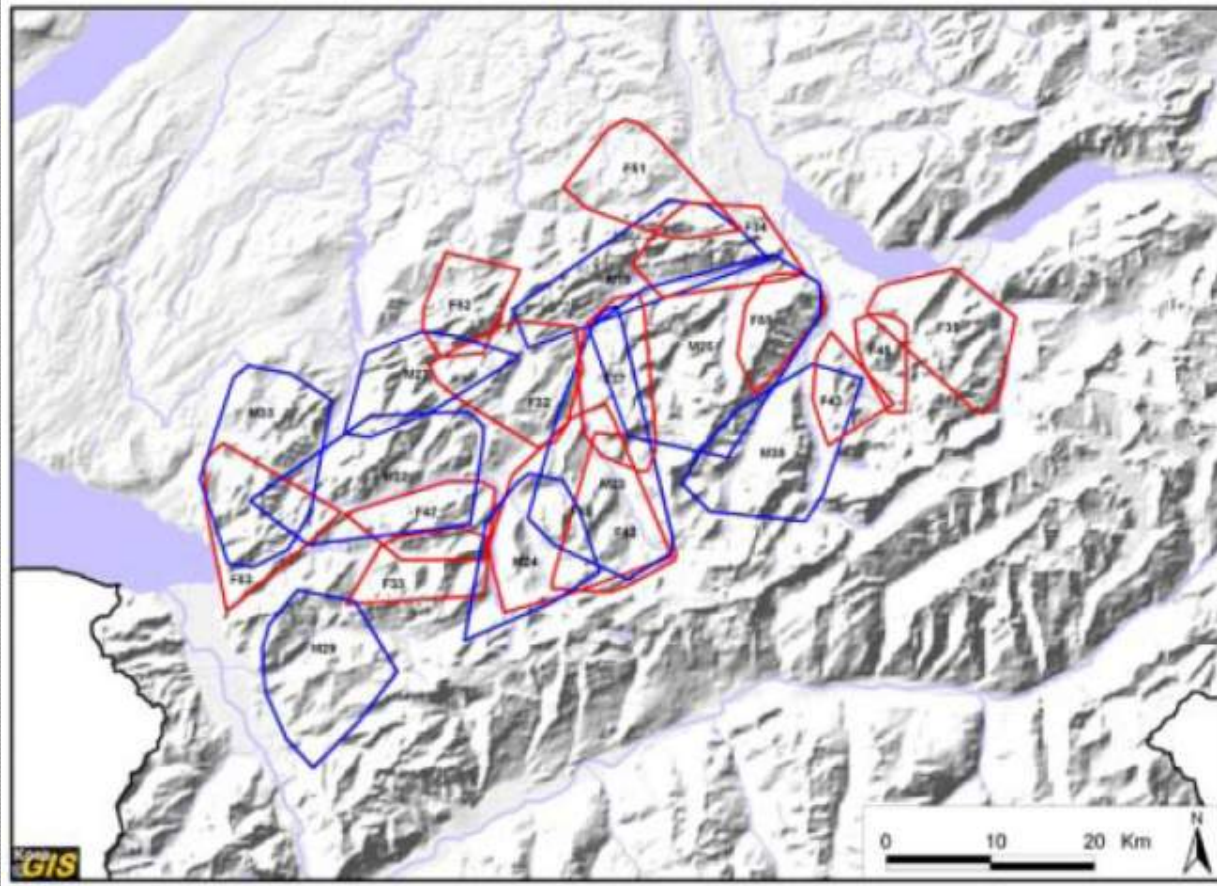
Legend

Local Classes



Land tenure system

(e.g. Northwestern Swiss Alps)



blue: males / red: females

- solitarily living species
- home ranges
males: 180-2780 km²
females: 98-759 km²
- males monopolize one or two, rarely more females
- home range size vary depending on latitude, habitat productivity and prey availability

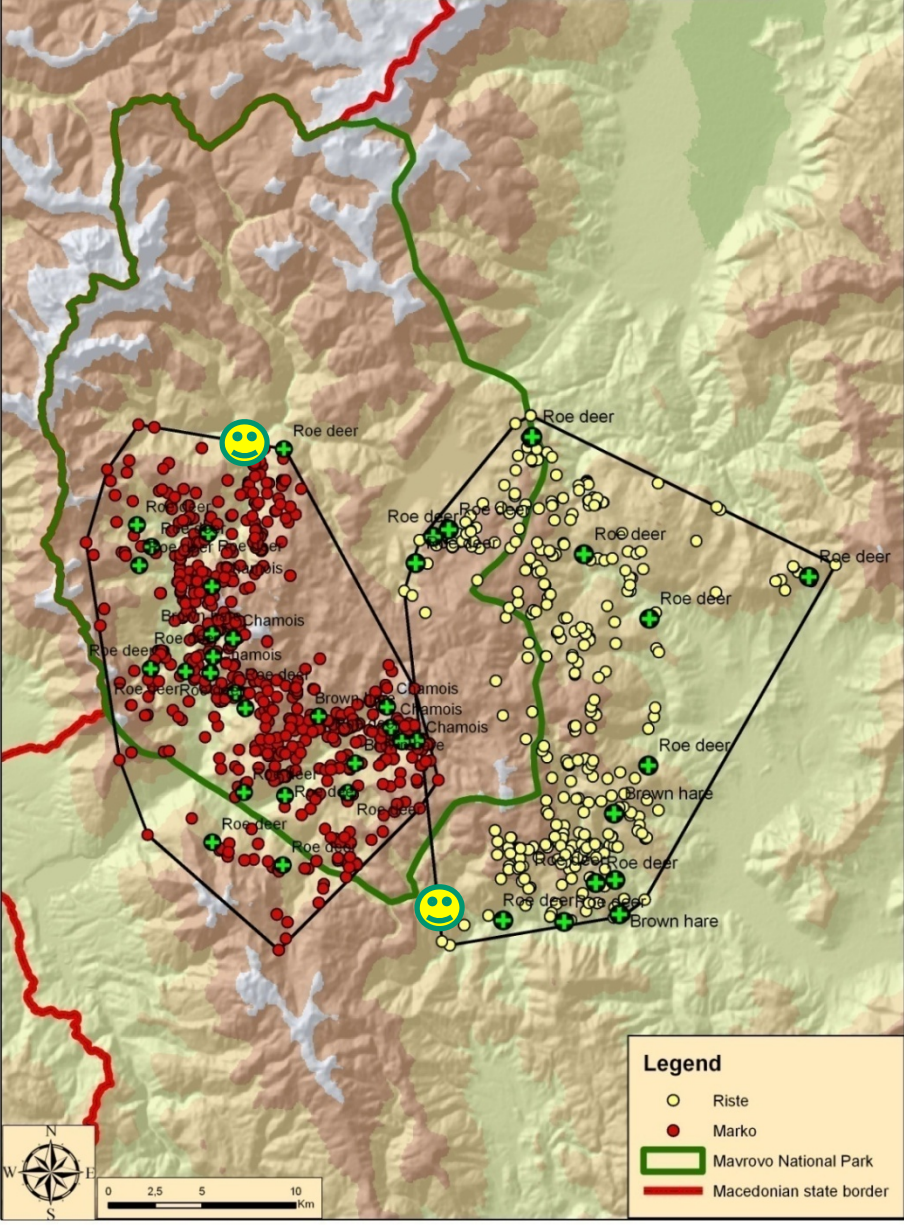
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Marko and Riste's home range



Marko (home range: 368 km²)



Riste (home range: 449 km²)



Prey

Lynx is a hunter of small ungulates in many parts of its range

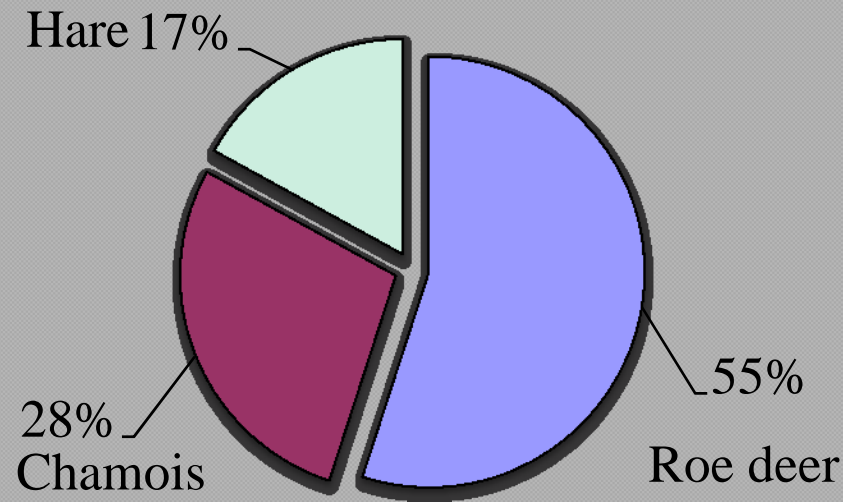
Only in north-eastern Europe, mountain hares are the main prey

In areas with low ungulate availability, lagomorphs, birds and rodents can be an essential prey part

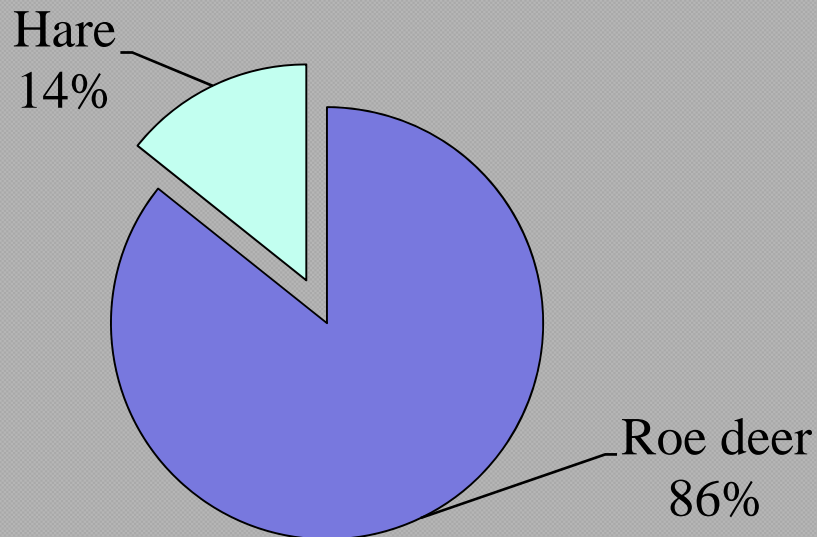
Lynx diet varies seasonally



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Marko's diet
(N=25)

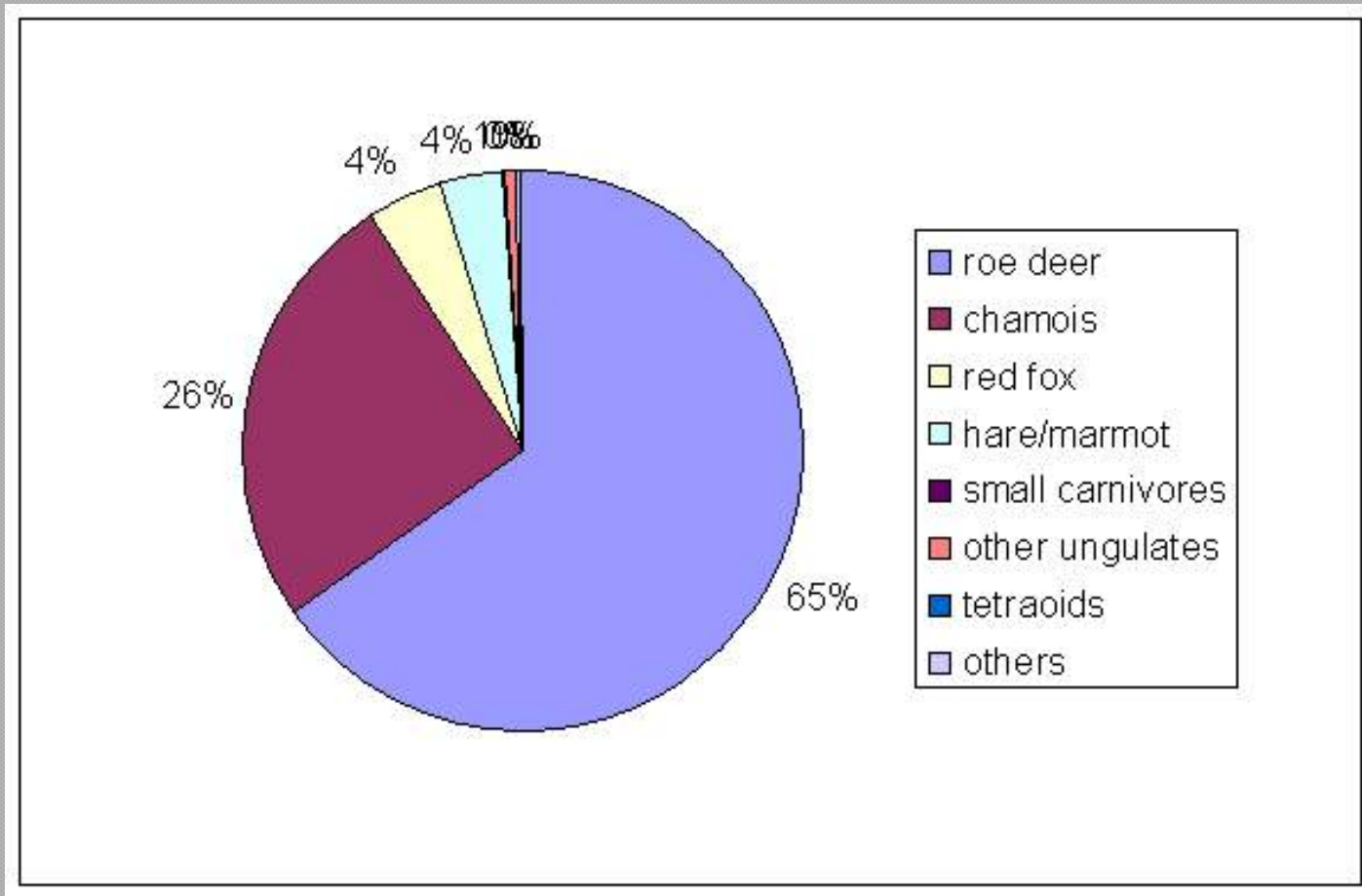


Riste's diet
(N=14)

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Diet

e.g. radio-marked lynx in Switzerland (N=946)



Consumption rate per lynx = 1-2.5 kg meat per day

Competition

for prey: fox, marten, birds (raptors, ravens, jay), stray dogs, wild boars, humans, **wolf and bear**

