Do Boars Compensate for Hunting With Higher Reproductive Hormones?

Over the past 10 years, the number of female wild boar has increased in Israel, with the highest density in the Upper Galilee region. This increased density has led to conflicts with humans.

In the study researchers investigated the effects of high and low hunting pressures and social factors on stress hormones (cortisol) and reproductive hormones (progesterone) of female wild boars in northern Israel.

In the laboratory researchers extracted and quantified cortisol and progesterone from the hair of female wild boars.

Number of cortisol samples: 78
Number of progesterone samples: 81

High hunting pressure: 17
Low hunting pressure: 19

They did statistical analysis of hormonal data to compare differences in the cortisol and progesterone of female wild boars between high and low hunting pressure areas.

The results suggest that the reproductive hormonal response may be one of the factors leading to the rapid wild boar population growth worldwide, despite the high hunting pressure they are exposed to.

Paper: Shovalov et al., Do boars compensate for hunting with higher reproductive hormones? Conservation Physiology (2021)

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