

## HOME RANGE AND ACTIVITY PATTERN OF THE EDIBLE DORMOUSE (*GLIS GLIS*) IN CENTRAL ITALY

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Home range and activity pattern of the edible dormouse, *Glis glis* (LINNAEUS, 1776) have been studied in the Lake Vico Regional Reserve, central Italy (42°20'N 12°11'E). The study area was a beech and oak mixed-forest, including several cultivated plots of chestnut and hazelnut. From October 1999 to October 2000, thirteen individuals (6 females and 7 males) were caught. In the first year, 6 individuals were radio-tracked every 12 hours; in the second year 7 individuals were radio-tracked either with discontinuous (with discrete time intervals every 24 hours) or continuous radio-tracking (once a month, from sunset to sunrise).

The results indicate that home range was larger in adult males than in females, and that range size changed according to season, decreasing from late September to early October, up to hibernation. The mean value of range size estimated by the MCP method, varied from 2.4 ha (in males) to 0.7 ha (in females). Male home ranges partially overlapped (up to 97%). The degree of overlapping decreased from summer (July–August) to autumn (September–October). The maximum straight line distance was covered in August (730 m) while the minimum was in July (254 m) and in October (255 m). The edible dormouse was active during the night and by day but with different intensity. There are three resting intervals: from 8:00 to 10:00, from 13:00 to 14:00, and from 16:00 to 17:00. During the night, activity was recorded from 20:00 to 5:00 with some individual variation in intensity. Cloudless and cool nights favoured the summer activity of the dormouse. Most of the animals woke up from hibernation at the beginning of May. Adults entered hibernation in the middle of October, yearlings at the end of the same month. Hibernation refuges were burrows dug under the soil surface or in hollow trees.