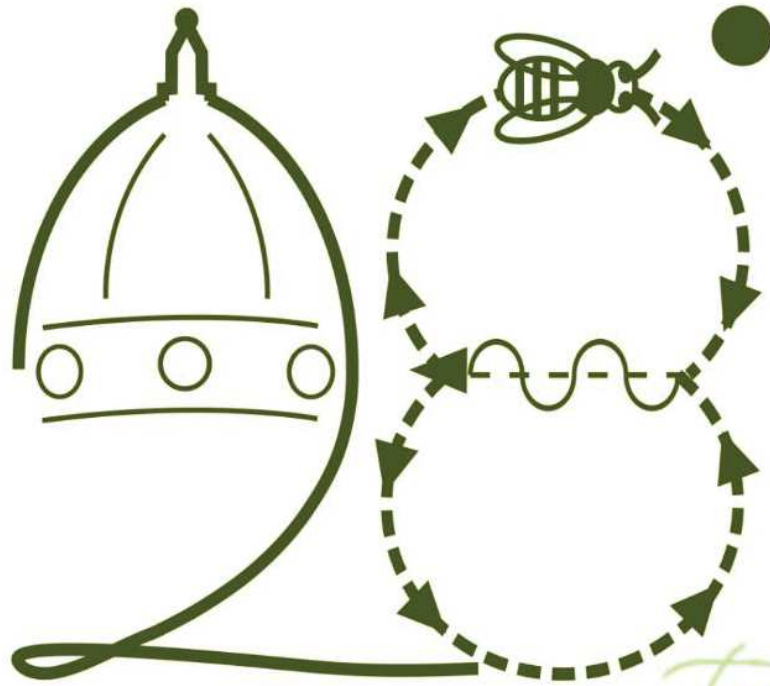


**XXXVIII Convegno Nazionale della Società Italiana di Etologia**



**Firenze, 9-12 Settembre 2019**



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FIRENZE

# XXVIII CONVEGNO NAZIONALE DELLA SOCIETA' ITALIANA DI ETOLOGIA SIE

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Firenze, 9-12 Settembre 2019

Palazzo Nonfinito  
Via del Proconsolo, 12

Polo di Novoli  
Via delle Pandette, 3

Con il Patrocinio di Università degli Studi di Firenze e il contributo della  
Società Italiana di Etologia e dell'Università degli Studi di Firenze



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## Spatiotemporal behaviour of the endemic Apennine hare *Lepus corsicanus*

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The movements, habitat use and activity of herbivores are influenced by food availability and seasonal variation in predation risk. Information on their spatiotemporal behaviour is basic for conservation purposes, but it is often lacking for cryptic and localised species. We evaluated how sex, seasonality, time of the day and habitat type may influence the spatial behaviour and activity of an herbivorous mammal, the Apennine hare *Lepus corsicanus*, a threatened (*sensu* IUCN) species endemic to Central-Southern Italy. We radio-tracked 12 hares (7 males and 5 females) for at least 12 months each, in an area of Maremma, Southern Tuscany. Sex influenced neither home range size, nor habitat selection. Home range size was larger during the warm months, when hares increased their usage of top habitat types for feeding activities, i.e. cultivations. At both study area and home range spatial scales, habitat selection did not change between the cold and the warm months. At the study area scale, hares avoided woodlands and human settlements. As well, they selected scrubwoods and cultivations. Within home ranges, at night Apennine hares selected open habitats (i.e. cultivations) as feeding grounds, whereas in daylight the scrubwood was used for cover and resting. Throughout the year, Apennine hares were mostly nocturnal and were more active in open than in concealed habitats, with no differences between sexes. Bright nights, i.e. with full moon and clear sky, inhibited activity in open areas but not under cover, possibly to reduce predation risk. Our findings emphasize the role of feeding and antipredatory requirements in shaping the spatiotemporal behaviour of this hare species.

**Keywords:** *activity rhythms, endemic species, habitat selection, home range size, radiotracking*