

FREQUENCY AND ABUNDANCE CHANGES OF WILD BOAR ROOTING IN VÖRÖSKŐVÁR, BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Natalia Pitta-Osses^{1*}, Csaba Centeri^{2,4} Krisztián Katona^{3,4}

¹Doctoral School of Animal Biotechnology and Animal Science, Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Gödöllő, HUNGARY

²Department of Nature Conservation and Landscape Management, Institute for Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation, Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Gödöllő, HUNGARY

³Department of Wildlife Biology and Management, Institute for Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation, Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Gödöllő, HUNGARY

⁴National Laboratory for Health Security, Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Gödöllő, HUNGARY

*corresponding author: nata.pitta@gmail.com

The feeding behaviour of wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) encompasses trampling and rooting, impacting soil characteristics and the broader landscape, especially in valuable grasslands with erosion-prone regions. While these effects have been identified in both native and invasive ranges of wild boar, there is limited information in the literature concerning the precise frequency and extent of rooting behaviour in urban grasslands. This study addressed that topic by assessing rooting abundance over a 12-month period (from March 2023 to February 2024) in a grassy landscape under intensive shrub encroachment, in Vöröskővár, Budapest, Hungary. We analysed the intensity of rootings across both sloped and flat terrain areas. The results show a surge in rooting abundance between December and January, with a corresponding decline during warmer periods, i.e., July and August, particularly pronounced in the flat terrain section of our grid. Further analyses will incorporate factors such as vegetation abundance and type, alongside potential interspecies interactions to identify the long-term effect of the rooting behaviour on the soil. This analysis is conducted within the framework of a project funded by the National Research, Development and Innovation Office in Hungary (RRF-2.3.1-21-2022-00006).