

# INFLUENCE OF ECOLOGICAL FACTORS AND REPRODUCTIVE SEASONALITY IN WILD BOAR FROM THE DAGÂȚA AND STRUNGA HUNTING GROUNDS, IAȘI COUNTY, ROMANIA

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## Abstract

Reproductive timing in wild boar (*Sus scrofa ferus*) is classically constrained by short-day photoperiod, yet growing evidence shows marked ecological plasticity. We compared two hunting grounds in Iași County, Romania-F.C. 55 Dagâța (hilly, mixed agro-silvopastoral mosaic) and F.C. Strunga (lowland, more uniform agricultural matrix)-to test whether local resource context modulates reproductive seasonality.

Between 2021–2023 we examined 12 free-ranging wild boar (6/fond; juveniles and adults, both sexes). Age was assigned by dentition; body condition was noted at necropsy. We assessed reproductive status by macroscopic and histological endpoints: in females, ovarian cyclicity (dominant follicles, corpora lutea, luteal activity) and uterine changes; in males, testes weight/consistency and seminiferous epithelium activity (spermatogenic stage prevalence). Observations were integrated with concurrent ecological descriptors (habitat structure, trophic context) documented for each fond.

In Dagâța, adult females frequently showed evidence of ovarian activity outside the classic winter breeding peak, including active corpora lutea in summer, while adult males retained functionally active spermatogenesis into the warm season-indicating an extended breeding window. In Strunga, estrus in females and peak testicular activity in males were tightly concentrated in winter, consistent with strict seasonality. Across specimens, reproductive status co-varied with body condition and the local resource profile: steadier, diverse foraging in Dagâța vs. comparatively constrained resources in Strunga.

**Key words:** seasonality, reproduction, wild boar