

SHOULD YOU JOIN A GANG?

WILD BOAR ANTI-PREDATOR TACTICS IN AN AREA RECOLONIZED BY THE WOLF

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INTRODUCTION

After the return of the predator, a change in the behaviour of its prey is expected. For the wild boar, the main theory consisted in a group size increase.

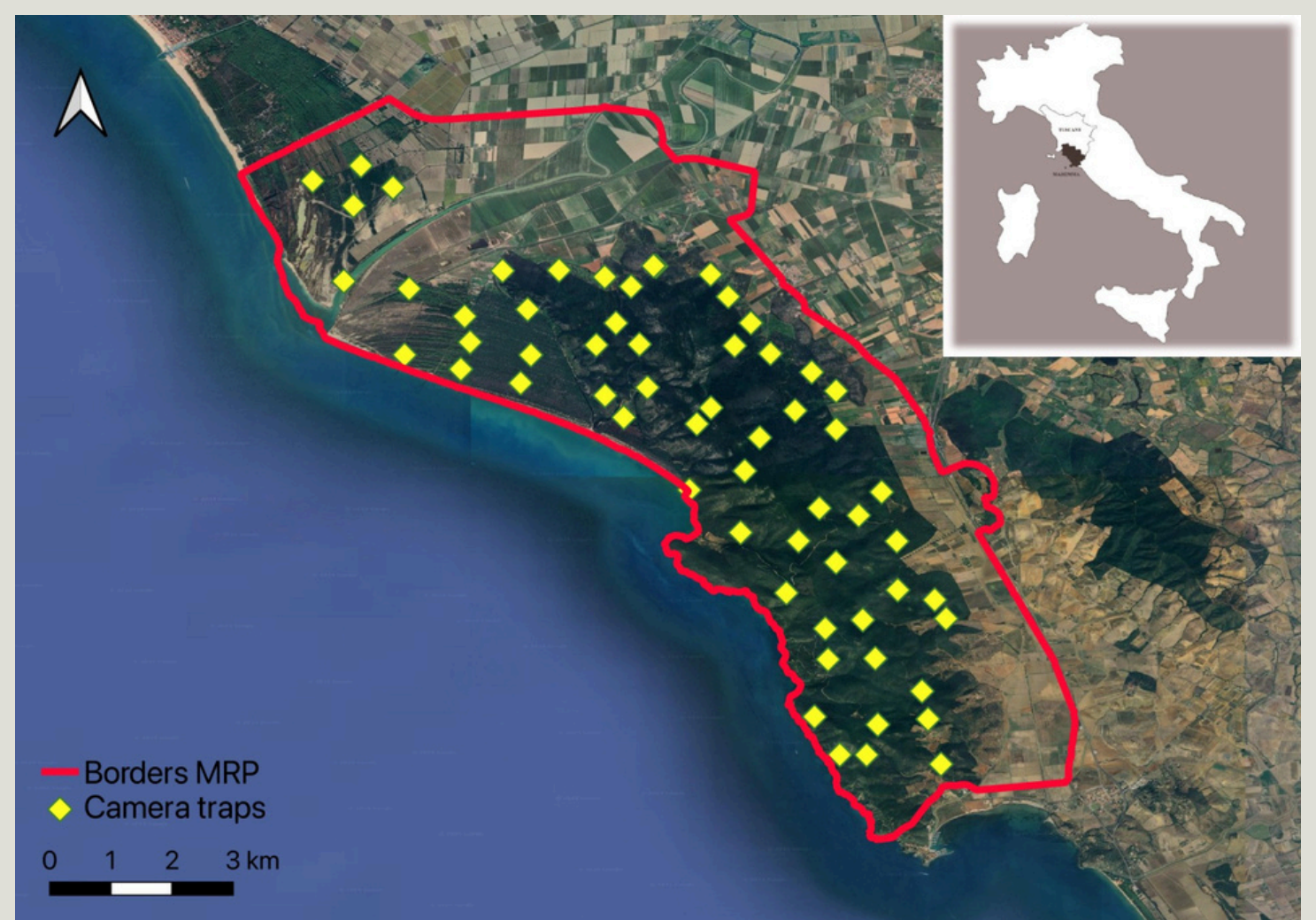
AIMS:

Looking at yearly variation in:

- Wild boar group size
- Group size in relation to other confounding factors
- Group size in relation to wolf activity or habitat

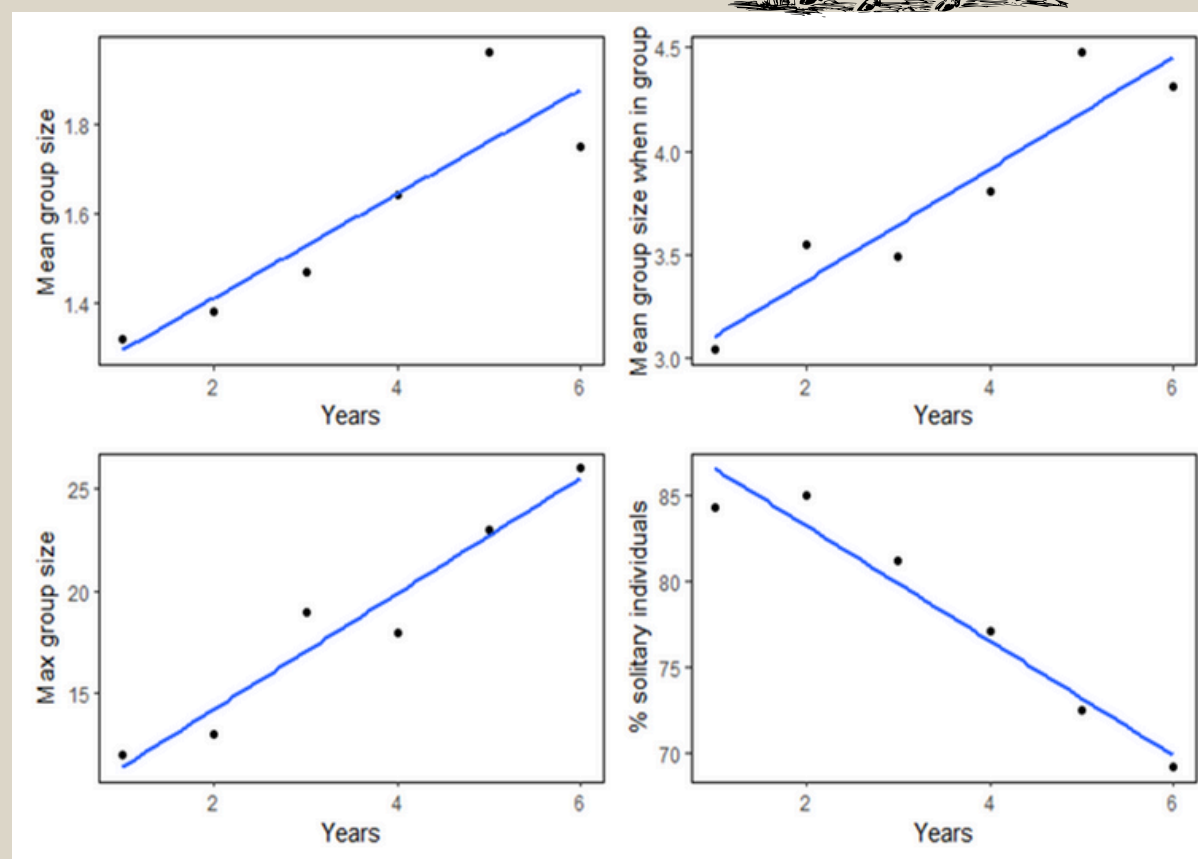
METHODS

- 60 camera traps
- From Autumn-Winter 2017-2018 to Autumn-Winter 2022-2023
- Maremma Regional Park, Tuscany (Italy)

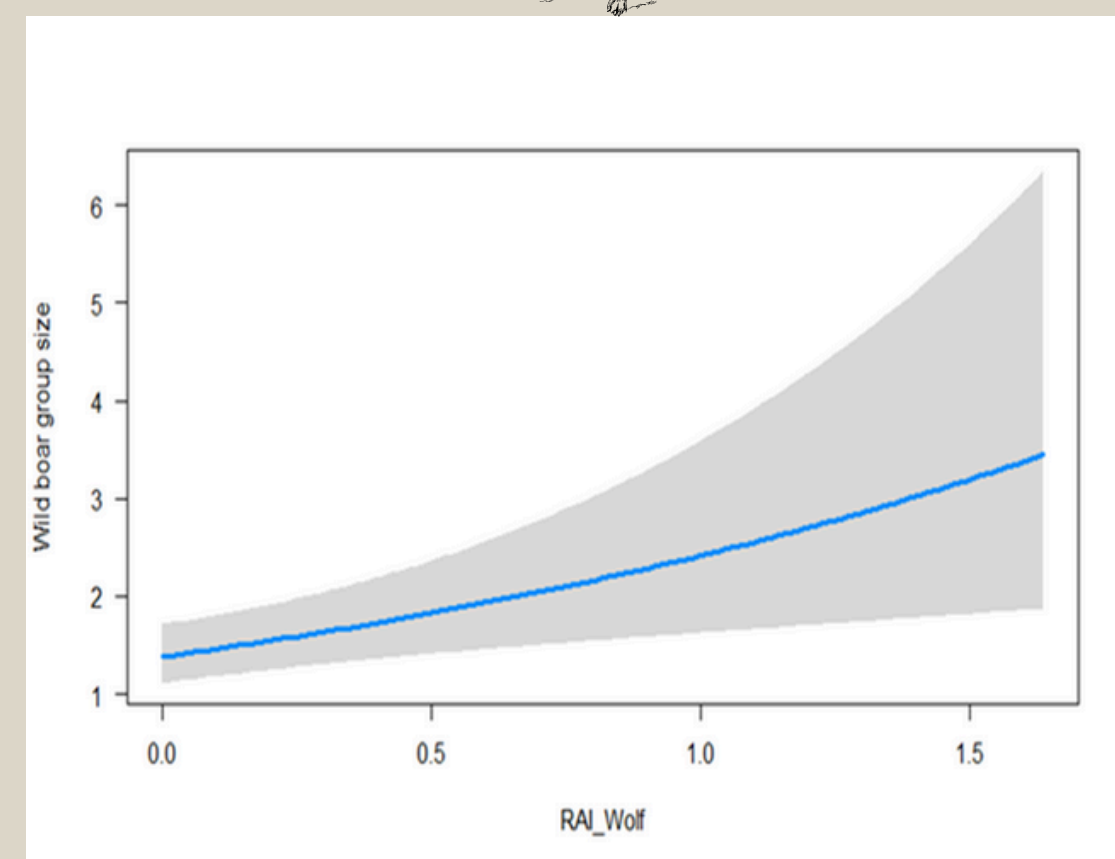


RESULTS

- Increased group size, maximum group size, decreased solitary detections (Fig 1)
- Higher wolf activity led to higher mean group size (Fig 2)



(Fig 1)



(Fig 2)

DISCUSSION

- Wild boar showed an increased group size unrelated to confounding factors (i.e. food availability, food dispersion, culling and population density)
- Wolf activity did have an influence on this increase
- Higher number of groups in the population with the progressive years
- No influence of the habitat on wild boar group size

