

Rupicapra pyrenaica BONAPARTE, 1845



D. Roth

Southern chamois

AL	-	LT	-
BG	Пиринейска дива коза	LU	-
CZ	Kamzík střeozemní	LV	-
DE	Pyrenäengemse	MK	-
DK	-	MT	-
EE	Pürenee mägikits	NL	Apennijnse gems
ES	Rebeco ibérico	NO	-
FI	Pyreneidengemssi	PL	Kozica pirenejska
FO	-	PT	Camurça dos Pirinéus
FR	Isard	RO	-
GR	-	RU	Пиринейская серна
HR	Pirenejska divokoza	SE	Iberisk gems
HU	Pireneusi zerge	SI	Pirenejski gams
IR	-	SK	Kamzík pyrenejský
IS	Spánargemsa	TR	-
IT	Camoscio dei Pirenei	YU	-

Distribution

Endemic to Europe: the Pyrénées, north-western Spain and central Italy (Abruzzo).

Geographic variation

Three subspecies are recognized. Apennine populations: *R. pyrenaica ornata* Neumann, 1899. Iberian populations: *R. p. pyrenaica* Bonaparte, 1845 (Pyrénées) and *R. p. parva* Cabrera, 1911 (north-west Spain).

Habitat

Female groups and subadult males range over alpine meadows during the warm season. They stay at higher elevations as long as grass patches are available, otherwise they move to the forested lower slopes. Adult males seem to prefer more wooded and rugged areas all year long except during the rut. Principal environmental factors related to habitat selection are: the distribution of steep and rocky areas, aspect, distribution and quality of food, and snow depth.

Population status

Population trend and dispersion not evaluated. Southern chamois is relatively abundant, and though the Apennine chamois is technically endangered, current conservation management appears successful.

Apennine chamois have a geographically restricted distribution; very small populations, but possibly increasing trend. Densities of Iberian populations are

low outside protected areas, where numbers are probably too high (30 up to 80 animals per 100 ha). About 35000 Southern chamois are estimated in Europe (Spain: >19000; France: 15000; Italy: 500).

International legal & conservation status

Bern Convention, Appendix II (*R. p. ornata* only), Appendix III (as part of *R. rupicapra sensu lato*).

EU Habitats & Species Directive, Annex II* & Annex IV (*R. p. ornata* only), Annex V (as part of *R. rupicapra sensu lato*).

CITES, Appendix I; EC 338/97, Annex A. (*R. p. ornata* only).

IUCN Red List, Endangered (*R. p. ornata* only).

Other information

A reintroduction plan for Apennine chamois has recently started (LIFE project). A group of 28 chamois was released in the Majella massif between 1991 and 1996, and more recently 26 were reintroduced into the Gran Sasso massif. About 40 individuals are kept in large breeding enclosures sited in five different areas. No studbook has been kept. All translocations took place in protected areas; further ones are suggested in the Velino Sirente Regional Park and in the Sibillini National Park.



Rupicapra pyrenaica

Literature

- Lovari & Cosentino (1986)
Masini & Lovari (1988)
Richard-Hansen *et al.* (1992)
Schröder *et al.* (1983)
Shackleton *et al.* (1997)

L. Pedrotti & S. Lovari