

# Demography, movement, and social structure of the Nubian ibex population of the Judean Desert

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The Nubian ibex is a threatened desert-dwelling mountain ungulate whose ecology is little understood, in part, due to the rugged terrain and remote locations which it inhabits. Here I report fundamental findings concerning the species demography, spatial distribution, behaviour, and movement using

the ibex population of the North Judean Desert in Israel as a model. This population is situated at the northernmost edge of the species natural range, and is reported to be the largest worldwide (with ~800 individuals). It inhabits a constraining habitat (dictated by cliff and water availability) thus increasing its sensitivity to fragmentation and patch isolation. Three parallel channels were investigated - demography, movement, and social structure – in parallel to a genetic study that was conducted on the same populations. Combined, my results elucidate potential threats to this and other ibex populations stemming from the species ecology, behaviour, and their interaction with the study-area's specific landscape attributes.



This is Jonathan's final PhD seminar!

