



Spatial behaviour of adult male Alpine ibex *Capra ibex ibex* in the Gran Paradiso National Park, Italy

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During a two year preliminary study, the spatial organization of a group of male Alpine ibex *Capra ibex ibex* Linnaeus, 1758 was examined in the Gran Paradiso National Park, Western Italian Alps, Italy. From December 1995 to January 1998 we measured annual, seasonal home range and home range during the rut, plus altitudinal migration of 13 radio-collared adult Alpine ibex. The small annual home range size showed a traditional use of space, confirmed by the high overlapping values between home ranges of consecutive years: the ibex used the same places from year to year. This was also true during periods of rut. Home ranges closely overlapped in consecutive ruts, while their size changed from winter to winter. Snow cover limited the movements of the ibex; winter and spring home ranges were smaller than those in summer and autumn. Mean vertical movement patterns were similar in the two years, showing the highest values in summer and the lowest in spring. Space use was never proportional to availability for each altitudinal range.

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