

APHAEA-Meeting Brescia:

Title

Determinants of rodent population fluctuations and methodological approaches to estimate small herbivore density

Abstract:

Irruptive rodent fluctuations are one the most interesting phenomenon in ecology. They nevertheless pose a significant risk to human health as well as agricultural practices. An accurate determination of population dynamics using validated methods is therefore an essential prerequisite for meaningful risk assessment.

This talk will explore the main determinants of rodent population fluctuations and present an overview of benefits and pitfalls of key methods available for density estimation.

Short CV Christian Imholt:

2006 - MSc in Biology at the University of Münster, Germany

2006-2010 - PhD in Geography at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland

Topic: The impact of environmental change on aquatic vertebrates and riverine habitat

2009-2013 - PostDoc at the Julius Kühn-Institute, Federal Research Institute for Plant Protection/ Vertebrate Research Group

Topic:

- Climatic determinants of rodent dynamics and projecting the impact of climate change on Common vole abundance
- Validation of methods to estimate rodent density

Since 2013 - PostDoc at the Friedrich Löffler-Institute, Federal Research Institute for Animal Health

Topic:

- The impact of Hantavirus infection on rodent population dynamics
- Validation of a rapid assessment field test for Puumala infection in Bank voles