

Chapter 1 : Synapsida: Caprines: Lands of the Ibex

The Caprinae are characteristic ungulates of palaeartic mountain regions. The Walia ibex, Capra ibex walie, a member of the Caprinae, has colonized successfully the Simen mountains in Ethiopia, and as such presents an interesting act in the history of the Caprinae. Apart from the question of how.

Ibex Description The Ibex is a species of wild mountain goat that have huge back-curving horns. The horns on a male ibex can grow to be 70 – 100 centimetres 28 – 35 inches in length. Female horns are slightly shorter, thinner and curve slightly more backwards. Horns are used to defend themselves against predators. An ibex grows to about 5 feet in length and stand around 3. The male ibex is commonly larger and heavier than the female. Ibexes have short, but not shaggy coats that vary in colour from reddish brown in the winter to brownish grey in the summer. The male ibex has a beard on his chin. Ibexes are remarkably sure-footed and agile which enables them to leap about rocky ledges.

Ibex Habitat Ibexes are found on craggy terrains between the timber and snow lines above the alpine forests of the European Alps. Ibexes tend to occupy steep, rocky habitats at elevations of between 6,000 – 15,000 feet 2,000 – 4,600 metres. The ibexes have a unique hoof structure making it an excellent climber on steep rocks.

Ibex Diet Ibexes are herbivores and rely mainly on grass, flowers, twigs and moss to survive. Ibex also often stand on their hind legs to reach leaves and shoots from trees. They come down from their steep habitats during late afternoon and evenings to the alpine meadows below to feed. However, in the winter, ibexes tend to live at lower altitudes when food is more scarce. During the summer, ibexes need to drink water every other day and therefore seek regions where there is a dependable water source.

Ibex Behaviour Ibexes are diurnal and live in bachelor groups in herds of 10 – 20 individuals. These male and female herds will only join together during the mating season. Being able to climb to great heights is also an ibexes defence technique as very few predators can follow them to the steepest regions of their habitat. Ibexes predators include wolves, bears, foxes and lynxes. If ibexes sense danger, they raise up on their very strong hind legs and point their horns towards their predators. Small kids young ibex are also susceptible to attacks from large predatory birds such as eagles. The ibexes receives help with their grooming habits from birds called Gackles who peck parasites from their coats. Like most goats, the ibex sprays itself with its own urine which gives it a strong body odour. At this time, males will separate from their bachelor herds and go their own way to seek out a female herd. During breeding season, fight rituals occur between males in order to determine who is entitled to breed with available females. Physical damage is rare during the rituals despite the males having large, heavy horns. The gestation period of the female ibex is around 6 months – 7 days after which a single kid is born twins rarely occur , usually during the month of May. Ibexes can live up to 20 years.

Ibex Conservation Status By the beginning of the 19th century the Ibex was practically extinct, being hunted for its supposed mystical qualities. After years of extensive protection the numbers in the wild are not now under threat of extinction. About Alpine ibexes live in other parts of the Alps. Other ibexes that are threatened with extinction are the Ethiopian Ibex and the Spanish Ibex of the Iberian Peninsula.

Chapter 2 : The week in wildlife “ in pictures | Environment | The Guardian

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Chapter 3 : Iberian ibex - Wikipedia

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The goat tends to stand at a height of 2. A full grown Nubian ibex weighs between 25 to 70kg. The outer surface of the body is sandy brown which is a bit lighter at the back. The belly region and the legs are generally white. The males possess dark brown stripes down the back of their bodies. The legs have black and white marks spread around them. The color of the neck, chest, shoulders, upper legs, and sides, turn dark brown which can at times turn black in males during the hot month of October. The male goats have long and dark colored beards. Picture 1 " Nubian Ibex Horns: Ibexes have long and thin horns. The horns grow up long and then bend backwards. The male usually has a meter long horn, while the female horns are much smaller, growing not more than 12inches. Due to lack of data it cannot be confirmed, but there have been traces of this species found in Syria. Earlier it was found in Lebanon but currently it is extinct in this region. Habitat These mammals live in the rugged desert mountainous terrains that are steep and have rough and rocky slopes. They prefer living in the remote areas. These animals are also found to live in the plateaus, canyons and wadis. Behavior There are a lot of interesting behavioral patterns found in these animals: These animals are known to be most active during the daytime. They retire at night. As the afternoon arrives they slow down their activity and switch to restive mode which continues through the night. Nubian ibexes find shelter during winters. They retreat to caves and rock outcroppings to get away from cold winter chills, wind and the rain. Shallow grounds are often hollowed out by these creatures to form their resting grounds. Ibexes living in the shores of the Dead Sea and the Arabian Peninsula tend to find the rising temperatures often reaching 38 degrees Celsius and higher unsettling. During this time, they mostly lie down or turn on their sides to keep themselves cool. They find shelter in the shaded areas during hot temperatures. Herds are predominantly gender-based. Nubian Ibexes are very territorial and protect their living areas. They live together in flocks and their living range is a few kilometers. A herd of Nubian ibex is dominated by males or females who often fight with members of same gender trying to encroach in a group. Female bonding is higher than the males as the latter tend to disperse. Groups tend to move separately at times, in order to find new feeding grounds and water sources. Picture 2 " Nubian Ibex Photo Diet Being herbivorous in nature, the Nubian ibex generally feeds on grasses and leaves. At times they prefer feeding on buds and fruits. They also prefer eating casabas. Predators They are threatened by leopards, eagles and bearded vultures. Adaptation These animals have strong hind legs. Both male and female species use their hind legs in defending themselves against potent dangers and threats from predators. The desert goat raises its body on its hind legs and points its horns while being threatened. Mating Season The herds comprising of males and females come together in groups largely during March and November. However, there are believed to be two mating seasons in these animals. Autumn is the first mating time with the spring being a good time to mate. The second mating season has developed recently due to changes in the evolutionary processes. Mating season depends largely on the capabilities of the female to become pregnant. A female which is able to bear a child twice can opt to mate. Reproduction Sexual maturity is reached at 2 to 3 years of age by a Nubian ibex. Males feel mating urge during late autumn. Picture 3 " Nubian Ibex Image Male fighting is common during the choosing of mates and selecting available female goats. Females gestate for 6 months approximately. Normally a single baby is born to a female Nubian ibex during May. Life Cycle Lactation period lasts till 3 months age of the baby then the mother starts feeding the new born along with the adult child. When the babies reach 3 years of age they tend to stay with their mothers becoming a part of the group. Life Span An adult lives for around 17 years. Adult males are often found to live alone. There has been a great decline in the population of this species for over a decade. Interesting Facts Some interesting facts about this animal: In spite of its small size they are very hardy. They move up and down the rocky desert mountains too often. Sexual activity continues for about a month. Kids start jumping and running around within 24 hours of their birth. They have their scent glands on the low end of their tails. Females are smaller in size and have shorter horns

than male Nubian ibexes. Leopards and hunters spread across the Arabian territories are the main predators of this animal.

Chapter 4 : Alpine Ibex (Capra) - Key Facts, Information & Pictures

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July 23, Peter Wey Shutterstock Ibex are wild goats that live in the mountainous regions of Europe, north central Asia and northern Africa. They have long, curved horns and cloven hooves. Males have long beards. Ibex are related to antelopes, buffalo, bison, cattle, goats and sheep. Size Ibex are typically about 1 to 5. Ibex tend to weigh about 65 to lbs. Both male and female ibex have very long horns, which are used for territorial defense and sexual selection. They curve backward, forming a semicircle, and have knobby rings on the outer curve. Male horns may reach about 5 feet 1. Diet Ibex are herbivores; they only eat vegetation, such as shrubs, bushes and grasses. Grazing accounts for a significant part of their eating habits. The low nutritional value of their diet means the ibex must spend much of the day eating. Habitat Ibex make their homes on cliffs that would be dangerous for predators. The Nubian ibex has a special way to deal with the hot, dry climates of the African and Arabian mountains: Their shiny coats reflect sunlight and keep them cool. Ibex are social and live in groups called herds. The herds are segregated by gender, meaning males will have a herd, and the females and offspring will be in another herd. The two herds usually meet only during breeding season. The male herd is called a bachelor herd. Sometimes, males will wander without a herd. Female herds can have 10 to 20 members. Offspring Ibex males use scent to communicate with potential mates. Nubian ibex males use their beards to spread a scent that draws in and excites females during breeding season. Breeding season for ibex is called the rut. During the rut, males fight for the right to breed with the females by pushing their heads together. The winners will court the female in a process that can take around 30 minutes. Once pregnant, females will have a gestation period of to days. She will give birth to one to three babies, called kids, at a time. Right after birth, a kid is very alert and can jump around. After four weeks, it is ready to join the other kids in the group. At four to six months, a kid is weaned. It will remain with its mother for at least a year. Females will go on to have their own young at 2 to 6 years of age. The life span of ibex in the wild is about 17 years.

Chapter 5 : Wild goat - Wikipedia

The Caprinae are characteristic ungulates of palaeartic mountain regions. The Walia ibex, Capra ibex walie, a member of the Caprinae, has colonized successfully the Simen mountains in Ethiopia, and as such presents an interesting act in the history of the Caprinae.

Habitat[edit] The Iberian ibex *Capra pyrenaica* populates the Iberian Peninsula and consisted originally of four subspecies. However, with recent extinctions occurring within the last century, only two of the subspecies still exist. These physical adaptations allow them to be able to run and leap on bare, rocky, rough, and steep slopes. The Iberian ibex also shows remarkable sexual dimorphism , with males being greater in size and weight and also having larger horns than the females. Allocation to testes mass was greatest in the rutting season, particularly at ages that are associated with a subordinate status and a coursing, rather than mate-guarding, reproductive strategy. The males are the first to separate and return to their male-only groups while the female yearlings eventually return to their mothers and spend their next few years with the group. First the ibex will have an erect posture with its ears and head pointing in the direction of the potential predator. The caller will then signal the other ibexes in the group with one or more alarm calls. Once the group has heard the alarm calls, they will flee to another area that is usually an advantageous vantage point like a rocky slope where the predator cannot reach. However, since their alarm calls consists of an abrupt explosive whistle, it can easily be heard by predators and quickly be located even from farther distances. Thus, the percentage of each type of resource that is consumed will vary altitudinally, geographically, and seasonally. The highest body storage of kidney fat can be found during the productive warm seasons and the lowest during the cold period. The body storage is characterized by limited the food resources. When food resources are low during the winter, ibexes would reduce their rates of movement when foraging. However, during the spring season, when food is more available, they would increase their rate of movement and become more mobile in finding food. Preservation[edit] The populations of *Capra pyrenaica* have decreased significantly over the last centuries. This is probably due to a combination of contributing factors such as hunting pressure, agricultural development and habitat deterioration. Around , one of its subspecies, *C. C.* By the mid-nineteenth century, another of the four subspecies, the Pyrenean ibex , had lost most of its range. It finally became extinct in January , when the last adult female died in the Ordesa National Park. Retrieved 24 November Uses authors parameter link Perez, Jesus M.

Chapter 6 : Facts About Ibex

Ibexes in an African Environment: Ecology and Social Systems of the Walia Ibex in the Simen Mountains, Ethiopia (Ecological Studies) Softcover reprint of the original 1st ed. Edition.

A random wander through the world of mammals Sunday, 28 April Caprines: True, they had to leave the vertiginous cliffs of their mountain homes when they became too cold and barren to support life - and, in many cases, were swathed in vast glaciers. But, as the world grew colder, the vegetation also moved down the mountain slopes, so that, down in the lowlands, goats found plenty of food they had been used to. Indeed, they were better suited to it than most other animals, which had to move to southern climes, rather than merely heading downhill. Since there are rather more lowland areas than there are mountains, goats could spread much further than they could during warmer times. When the Ice Ages ended, and the hot weather returned, they simply headed back up the mountains. But not, necessarily, the same mountains that they had previously come down from. As a result, we now have quite a range of goat species across Asia, and, to some extent, Africa. After all, between and after the Ice Ages, each population was isolated from those in other ranges, and could develop on its own. The wild goat itself is one, and the markhor, with its bizarre corkscrew horns, is another. Most of the others are collectively known as "ibexes". For a long time, though, it was thought that there were just two, one of which, the Alpine ibex *Capra ibex*, lived across a wide swathe of Europe and Asia, and even into north Africa. Although there is still some debate about exactly how many species there might be, there seems to be at least a general agreement that the Asian and African animals represent different species to those in Europe. Apparently, it was thought that you could make magic charms out of bits of them that would, among other things, protect you from violent death. In , Italy created what was later to become the Gran Paradiso National Park largely for the purposes of protecting the ibexes. It worked wonderfully, and, with a general decline in hunting elsewhere, Alpine ibex now number in the tens of thousands. Today, nearly half of them live in Switzerland, with most of the others in Italy, but there are also wild populations in France, Germany, and Austria, and a few have been deliberately introduced to the Slovenian Alps, and, beyond their native mountain range, to Bulgaria. Alpine ibex are similar in size to wild goats, but with blander coats that vary from chestnut brown in winter to a more yellowish colour in summer. Males have large scimitar-shaped horns up to a metre 3 feet in length, and 25 cm 10 inches in girth at the base. Like wild goats, the horns have visible bumps along their length, a new one forming each year as the animal ages. However, because the horns of females are much smaller, at no more than 35 cm 14 inches in length, and therefore grow more slowly, their rings are naturally finer and closer together. For that matter, males in general are much bigger than females - they can weigh up to twice as much. This is partly because they eat a lot more, in order to bulk up, but also because they continue growing for longer, taking ten years, rather than just five, to reach their full adult size. Alpine ibexes spend most of their lives above the tree-line, typically between and metres 5, to 10, feet in altitude. Although males stay with their mothers for the first two or three years, they otherwise live in single-sex herds outside the mating season, each gender establishing a clear hierarchy of dominance among themselves. Pregnancy lasts to days, about two weeks longer than in wild goats, and twins are much rarer. They live for up to sixteen years in the wild, and frequently do, which is pretty good going when you consider that most other herbivores of their size would have been eaten long before then. Having said that, Iberian ibexes are less insistent on mountains than their Alpine kin. That subspecies, however, became extinct as recently as January , when the last known individual died. In an unusual, if depressing, footnote, Pyrenean ibexes became the first animals ever to become extinct twice, when a cloned individual was born alive in , resurrecting the subspecies They have even been re-introduced to northern Portugal, where a fourth subspecies once lived, before being hunted to extinction in the nineteenth century. Iberian ibexes have black markings on the chest, flanks, and forehead, which are particularly obvious in males, and during the summer, when the rest of the coat is at its palest. More significantly, perhaps, their horns are a different shape, being smoother, and with an upward twist at the end in most adult males. During the hottest parts of the year, they will even take to feeding on moonlit nights, sheltering under cover during most of the hours of sunlight. Although both sexes

like to stay close to rocky terrain, females are more eager to keep to open country where they can see predators coming - unlike the Alps, there are still wolves in Spain. Pregnancy lasts a little longer than in Alpine ibexes, so, in order to time births for the same time of year, the rut takes place slightly earlier, between November and December. With more predators to worry about, not to mention a recent widespread epidemic of mange, they get less opportunity to live to a ripe old age, although a few have managed up to fifteen years. With one population on the shores of the Dead Sea, it has the unusual distinction of being the only wild species of goat to habitually live below sea level. They breed earlier in the year than other ibexes, presumably to time births for the most fertile season, and live in small herds of less than ten individuals. One study shows that dominant females are not only more aggressive than their younger sisters, but are also more likely to have male offspring. Their life is much tougher than that of their kin in Europe, as a combination of the arid environment, where rains may fail and kids often die young, and of the presence of both wolves and leopards. The presence of humans, and, in particular, encroaching agriculture, also serves to make their life less secure. *Walia ibex* female life is much harder, however, for the *Walia ibex Capra walie*, officially considered an endangered species. Sometimes thought to be only a subspecies of Nubian ibex, *Walia ibex* are found only in the Simien Mountains of Ethiopia, an environment completely different from that of their close relatives. Here, where they live at elevations between 8,000 to 13,000 feet, there are rich forests and moist savannahs occupying dramatic slopes and steep canyons. There are other differences, too: Unusually, males and females stay together throughout the year, although that may be because the current population is so small. These are the Kuban tur *Capra caucasica* in the west, and the Dagestani tur *Capra cylindricornis* in the east. Perhaps the main difference is the shape of the horns, which are relatively smooth, and curl outwards and around in an arc in the Dagestani tur, and look more ibex-like in the Kuban species. Both are a relatively uniform brown colour, becoming paler and brighter in summer, with only a few dark markings on the legs and tail. They live exclusively in the mountains, never venturing below 10,000 feet in elevation, and then only on steep slopes the steeper, the better, within reason and along precipitous cliffs. Much of the area is forested, with the turs showing a preference for pine forests over others, although much of their diet consists of grass and undergrowth. Both species are also found above the treeline, with the Dagestani species having been reported as high as 15,000 feet, and the Kuban slightly less. Already preyed on by the local wolves, Dagestani turs struggle with hunting and with encroaching livestock farms. The Kuban tur, however, is much worse off. They inhabit a narrow strip of land along the Georgian-Russian border, 45 km miles in length, and, at most, only 70 km 45 miles across. All pictures of males, unless otherwise indicated.

Chapter 7 : *Walia ibex (Capra walie)* - Literature sources

Ibexes in an African environment: Ecology and social system of the Walia ibex in the Simen Mountains, Ethiopia (Ecological studies) Unknown Binding -