

A short note on the diet of Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) in the Kasanka National Park, Zambia

Chris & Mathilde Stuart
African-Arabian Wildlife Research Centre

A small sample of 23 leopard scats was collected during 2000 and 2001 in Kasanka National Park (Central Province, Zambia).

Mammal remains were present in all scats, with ungulates (Sitatunga, Puku, Bushbuck and Common Duiker) dominating in 14 scats. Rodents, present in 9 of the scats, included *Thryonomys*, *Otomys*, *Pelomys* and *Mastomys* (*Praomys*).

Leopard occur at very low densities in Kasanka. One freshly killed young Sitatunga ram was observed being fed on by a leopard in the vicinity of the Pontoon that crosses the Kasanka River (Changwe pers.comm.).

LEOPARD SCATS - KASANKA

Total scats = 23

	Absolute Occurrence	Relative Occurrence
Mammals	23	100%
Unidentified hair + bone	1	4%
Carnivores	1	4%
Large Grey Mongoose <i>Herpestes ichneumon</i> (hair+bone)	1	4%
Ungulates	14	61%
Sitatunga <i>Tragelaphus spekei</i> (hair)	7	30%
Puku Kobus <i>vardonii</i> (hair + bones)	3	13%
Bushbuck <i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i> (hair)	2	9%
Common Duiker <i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i> (hair + bones)	2	9%
Rodents	9	39%
Canerat <i>Thryonomys swinderianus</i> (hair)	1	4%
Greater Vlei Rat <i>Otomys angoniensis</i> hair (bones + teeth)	4	17%
Creek Rat <i>Pelomys falax</i> (hair, bone, teeth)	2	9%
Multimammate Mouse <i>Praomys denniae</i> (hair, bone + teeth)	1	4%
Unidentified rodent hair	1	4%
Birds	3	13%
small birds , feathers	3	13%
Plant material	4	17%
Waterberry seeds <i>Syzgium</i> sp.	1	4%
Grass	3	13%

Localities of scats collected:
(all UTM Coordinates, Gridzone 36 L, Mapdatum ARC 50)

Fibwe area: 2 01 -02 E / 86 06-07 N
Pontoon: 1 99 360E / 86 08 830 N (10 scats around Fibwe and Pontoon area)
Confluence of Musola and Kasanka Rivers: 1 99 650 E / 86 07 500 N (10 scats)
Chinyangale: 2 01 210 E / 86 07 920 N (1 scat)
Mulaushi Bridge: 2 14 874 E / 86 10 791 N (1 scat)
Wasa II: 2 04 - 05 E / 86 09-10 N (1 scat)