

TOPIC 1. FOOD HABITS AND PREFERENCES

Food habits and preference lists of different forage species have been compiled for most species of wild ruminants in many areas of their ranges. The identification and listing of different species ingested is a useful aid when evaluating the biochemical aspects of nutrition. Such descriptive lists are the beginning, not the end, of nutritive analyses.

There are some interesting relationships between taxonomy and biochemistry to consider. Suppose, for example, that two species of plants were identified in the diet of an animal. The use of these species may have been described in the literature in many different ways, including number of twigs browsed, percent browsed, volume in the rumen, frequency of occurrence in the rumen, animal-minutes spent ingesting the species, and in other ways too. Statistical differences between the numerical quantities could be determined and conclusions made.

The data and their analyses in the above example may, however, be quite unrelated to the functional nutritive characteristics of the organism. If the nutrient compositions of two species were similar, then the animal's use of the species would be similar. Separate analyses of the nutritive data for the two species would not be relevant since the animal would "recognize" the forage from a biochemical standpoint rather than a taxonomic one.

There has been considerable work on both the food habits and preferences of wild ruminants. These two characteristics of a species seem straight-forward enough, but they are, in fact, very complex and interrelated. "Food habits" is a term applied to what an animal eats. "Preferences" is a term applied to the order in which foods are chosen. But to what extent are food habits affected by preference alone? Food habits are reflections not only of preference, but also of availability. Highly preferred foods that are unavailable can hardly show up in the "food habits." Some foods may be very low on a preference list, but still eaten in small quantities. As the quantities of the more preferred foods are depleted, the very low preference food may appear to be higher on the preference list.

The ranking of frequencies of different foods on food habits lists may give some indication of preference. If, however, the abundances of different foods in the stomach matches the abundances of the foods on the range, then one must conclude that no preference has been shown. If a frequently-occurring food in the stomach is infrequently found on the range, then a preference is being shown for that food. Conversely, if a very abundant food on the range is found in small quantities in the stomach, then an avoidance (negative preference) is being shown for that food. Statistical tests, such as the Chi-square test or rank-order non-parametric tests may be used to test for departures from expected frequencies of different foods in the stomach based on the abundances of the foods on the range.

The use of relative frequencies and rank-orders provides a basis for numerical indexes that may be used to quantify food preferences. These indexes, while relative and somewhat arbitrary, may provide ways to quantify ideas for use in simulating foraging relationships. Their use may be very helpful as long as index values continue to be treated as relative rather than absolute numbers.

Two units (UNIT 1.1: FOOD HABITS and UNIT 1.2: PREFERENCES) follow, with the literature separated into those references which contain information simply on what is eaten in UNIT 1.1, and those references containing information on the preferences in UNIT 1.2. Sorting of the literature into these two categories cannot be done perfectly, so students interested in either UNIT should consult the references listed after both UNITS.

UNIT 1.1: FOOD HABITS

There is a large amount of literature on the food habits of different wild ruminants. Surveys of forages ingested without consideration of the relative abundance of different forage species or the preferences of different ruminants for different forages, fall in the "food habits" category, since they only provide information on what was ingested. Foods on the lists reflect foods present on the range, of course. They also reflect seasonal differences in the presence of different forage species. These natural variations in the range contribute to long food habits lists. White-tailed deer, for example, have been observed to eat several hundred different species; the actual list of species eaten very likely exceeds a thousand.

Food habits lists are usually compiled from stomach or rumen analyses. There are several problems associated with this approach, including differences in the recognizability of different plant fragments, differences in the rates of mechanical and chemical breakdown of different plant materials, and differences in the abilities of different persons to recognize the plant species from the fragments. Stomach analyses are very tedious; the work is not particularly exciting to most people.

Food habits lists are important to the range and wildlife ecologist, however, as reasonable estimates of diet composition are needed to evaluate both nutrients ingested and the impact of herbivores on range composition. They are used in calculating intakes for animals on different diets as discussed in TOPICS 3, 4, and 5.

The references that follow provide information on food habits of wild ruminants. The next UNIT (1.2: PREFERENCES) includes lists of foods eaten when additional information on selection by the animal is given.

REFERENCES, UNIT 1.1

FOOD HABITS

SERIALS

CODEN	VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS-----	AUTHORS-----	YEAR
JWMAA 4---4	404 428 cerv utili oaks, birds, mammals van dersal,wr		1940
TNKKA 11...	41 50 cerv grazing area require, deer makhaeva,lv		1963

CODEN	VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS-----	AUTHORS-----	YEAR
AZATA 75---	1 39 od-- experimentl feeding of dee nichol,aa		1938
CAFGA 37--1	43 52 od-- deer range survey methods dasmann,up		1951

od-- continued on the next page

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS-----				AUTHORS-----	YEAR
JFUSA 33-11 940	942	od-- use, truck trails, firebre	robinson,cs		1935
JFUSA 48--6 410	415	od-- doca, rnge relations, utah	julander,o; robin		1950
JOMAA 25--2 130	130	od-- a deer brwse survey method	aldous,se		1944
JRMGA 11--1 18	21	od-- livest, tech study competn	julander,o		1958
JWMAA 13--3 314	315	od-- deer forage observat, utah	smith,jg		1949
JWMAA 19--3 358	364	od-- range appraisal, missouri	dunkeson,rl		1955
JWMAA 25--3 342	342	od-- atlan white-ced, wint brow	gould,wp; brown j		1961
JWMAA 30--1 204	206	od-- brws utiliz, percent twigs	stickney,pf		1966
NAWTA 17--- 448	458	od-- rumen content, doca competit	davis,rb		1952

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS-----				AUTHORS-----	YEAR
AMFOA 68--8 24	48	odvi dinnerbell for the whiteta	hurd,es		1962
AMNAA 89--2 281	286	odvi foods, martin county, indi	sotala,dj; kirkpa		1973
BIBAA 49--2 184	184	odvi eating birds in mist nets	allan,ta		1978
CJFRA 4---4 491	498	odvi use brows in encl, n bruns	drolet,ca		1974
ECOLA 12--2 323	333	odvi mount laurel, rhododendron	forbes,eb; bechde		1931
ECOLA 16--4 535	553	odvi wint reln to forests, mass	hosley,nw; ziebar		1935
JAASA 38...		odvi food habits, telemetry obs	marchinton,rl; ba		1967
JFUSA 37--3 265	267	odvi pine in the diet, minnesot	aldous,se		1939
JFUSA 41--6 471	475	odvi seas brows woody pl, oak f	bramble,wc; godda		1943
JFUSA 48-10 684	684	odvi samp yiel, brow util, wint	morton,ad		1950
JFUSA 51-11 815	819	odvi seas brows woody plt, penn	bramble,wc; godda		1953
JOMAA 18--1 77	80	odvi notes on winte foods, mich	howard,wj		1937
JOMAA 44--2 284	284	odvi insectivorous white-t deer	shaw,h		1963
JRMGA 21--3 158	164	odvi food habits, south texas	chamrad,ad; box,t		1968
JRMGA 21--3 164	166	odvi mid-sum diet, welder refug	drawe,dl		1968
JRMGA 26--5 372	375	odvi intake, obser mastic, tame	crawford,hs; whel		1973
JRMGA 32--2 93	97	odvi infl brush control on diet	quinton,da; hore/		1979
JWMAA 5---3 314	332	odvi foods of the united states	atwood,el		1941
JWMAA 6---4 287	291	odvi winter habits, central ny	cook,db; hamilton		1942
JWMAA 7---2 203	216	odvi on aransas refuge, texas	halloran,af		1943
JWMAA 9---4 319	322	odvi odhe, symptoms of malnutri	harris,d		1945
JWMAA 10--1 60	63	odvi summer brow, cutov hardwoo	cook,db		1946
JWMAA 11--3 263	266	odvi huron mountain deer herd	manville,rh		1947
JWMAA 13--1 135	141	odvi avail wint forage, browsin	hough,af		1949

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CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR

JWMAA 17--2 166	176	odvi irruption, necedah refuge martin,fr; krefti	1953
JWMAA 18--4 482	495	odvi deer management study: mud hunt,rw; mangus,l	1954
JWMAA 19--3 358	364	odvi deer range appraisal, missouri dunkeson,rl	1955
JWMAA 21--1 75	80	odvi effect brows, hardw-hemloc stoeckeler,jh; s/	1957
JWMAA 21--1 101	103	odvi interp overbrows ne forest webb,wl	1957
JWMAA 24--1 68	80	odvi influence on vegetation, w beals,ew; cottam/	1960
JWMAA 24--4 387	395	odvi deer-forest hab relationsh halls,lk; crawfor	1960
JWMAA 25--1 77	81	odvi nutri, accept value, slash alkon,pu	1961
JWMAA 25--4 404	409	odvi some foods, souther arizon white,rw	1961
JWMAA 26--2 164	172	odvi foods, manage impl, missou korschgen,lj	1962
JWMAA 26--4 371	379	odvi value, acorns, diet, michi duvendeck,jp	1962
JWMAA 28--3 473	477	odvi point frame, samp rum cont chamrad,ad; box,t	1964
JWMAA 28--4 798	808	odvi compar food habits, livest mcmahan,ca	1964
JWMAA 29--2 370	375	odvi fruit use, southern forest lay,dw	1965
JWMAA 30--1 151	162	odvi graz enclosur, tex, livest mcmahan,ca	1966
JWMAA 31--2 351	353	odvi brows, hardw seedli, sprou moore,wh; johnson	1967
JWMAA 31--2 354	356	odvi elm as deer browse pogge,fl	1967
JWMAA 32--1 130	141	odvi rang use, food, cons, prod allen,eo	1968
JWMAA 32--3 558	565	odvi habitat rela, odhe, montan martinka,cj	1968
JWMAA 32--3 623	626	odvi browse, ouachita for, okla segelquist,ca; pe	1968
JWMAA 33--3 506	510	odvi odhe, qual id forag, feces zyznar,e; urness,	1969
JWMAA 33--3 511	520	odvi habitat relat, ozark enclo segelquist,ca; w/	1969
JWMAA 34--1 210	213	odvi compar volumet, point-anal robel,rj; watt,pg	1970
JWMAA 34--3 535	540	odvi food habit, george reserve coblenz,be	1970
JWMAA 34--4 870	886	odvi food hab, range char, ohio nixon,cm; mcclai/	1970
JWMAA 35--3 476	487	odvi summer habitat, n cent min kohn,be; mooty,jj	1971
JWMAA 35--4 698	706	odvi for diges, diet, s upl ran short,hl	1971
JWMAA 36--3 906	912	odvi esophageal cannula for w-t veteto,g; davis,/	1972
JWMAA 37--2 195	201	odvi dry mat, energ intak, dige ammann,ap; cowan/	1973
JWMAA 38--2 210	214	odvi seas foods, n brunswick, c skinner,wr; telfe	1974
JWMAA 38--2 215	219	odvi summer foods, no wisconsin mccaffery,kr; tr/	1974
JWMAA 38--3 535	540	odvi odhe rumen, fecal anal, de anthony,rg; smith	1974
JWMAA 39--2 321	329	odvi nutrition south deer, seas short,hl	1975
JWMAA 39--2 330	336	odvi food, mast abundan, scarci harlow,rf; whela/	1975
JWMAA 39--4 699	704	odvi consum artif browse, penne ullrey,de; youat/	1975
JWMAA 40--1 140	144	odvi odhe, infl droug diet numb anthony,rg	1976
JWMAA 40--4 645	657	odvi alal, habitat use, sympatr kearney,sr; gilbe	1976
JWMAA 42--2 397	403	odvi impro meth rumen cont anal puglisi,mj; lisc/	1978
JWMAA 44--1 89	97	odvi spr sum food, missouri ozark korschgen,lj; po/	1980
JWMAA 44--1 98	106	odvi tame, sum forg use, n mich stormer fa; bauer	1980
MOCOA 8---9 4	5	odvi deer foods, missouri ozark dalke,pd	1947
MRLTA 54--2 23	23	odvi white-t deer eating salmon shea,ds	1973
NAWTA 2---- 438	445	odvi food study, north carolina stegeman,lc	1937
NAWTA 3---- 756	767	odvi food habi, minn, stom anal aldous,se; smith,	1938
NAWTA 6---- 155	160	odvi use, avail win brow, missouri dalke,pd	1941

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CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR

NAWTA 24--- 201	215	odvi food habits, everglades de loveless,cm; liga	1959
NAWTA 31--- 205	212	odvi use woody brows, nort east stitele,wm,jr; s	1966
NAWTA 34--- 229	238	odvi seas chng rmen chem compos kirkpatrick,rl; /	1969
NFGJA 11--2 115	118	odvi use, commercial clear-cut krull,jn	1964
NFGJA 17--1 63	63	odvi bird ingested by whit-tail stone,wb; palmat/	1970
PCGFA 8---- 83	85	odvi deer vs livest, gulf coast goodrum,pd; reid,	1954
PCGFA 13--- 54	61	odvi acorns in diet of wildlife goodrum,pd	1959
PCGFA 18--- 57	62	odvi imprttn variety, souther d lay,dw	1964
PCGFA 25--- 18	46	odvi forages eaten southea deer harlow,rf; hooper	1971
PMASA 7,8-- 65	68	odvi brwsing, ponder pine, mont adams,1	1948
POASA 46--- 220	221	odvi stomach contents, w-t fawn clark,tw	1966
PSAFA 58--- 139	143	odvi browsin, longleaf pin belt goodrum,pd; reid,	1958
SWNAA 24--2 297	310	odvi botan comp, nutr cont diet everitt,jh; gonza	1979
TISAA 70--1 47	56	odvi milo in diet of, illinois ward,wc; hardin,j	1977
TSASA 70--2 223	240	odvi food habits, nrtheast kans watt,pg; miller,/	1967
XANEA 33--- 1	37	odvi browsing hardwds, northeas shafer,el,jr	1965
XASEA 67--- 1	12	odvi import woody twig ends, se cushwa,ct; downi/	1970
XFWLA 310-- 1	10	odvi fall, wint food habs, minn aldous,se; smith,	1948

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR

CAFGA 36--3 235	240	odhe food habits, californ herd ferrel,cm; leach,	1950
CAFGA 38--2 211	224	odhe food hab, prod, cond, cali lassen,rw; ferre/	1952
CAFGA 39--2 163	175	odhe nutrtnl value forag plants hagen,hl	1953
CAFGA 40--3 215	234	odhe de fora relat lassen-washo dasmann,w; blaisd	1954
CAFGA 42--4 243	308	odhe foo hab great basin, calif leach,hr	1956
CAFGA 43--3 161	178	odhe foo habi, tehama deer herd leach,hr; hiehle,	1957
CAFGA 65--2 68	79	odhe die comp, ener resrv, preg holl,sa salwass/	1979
CJFRA 2---3 250	255	odhe doug fir genot, brows pref radwan,ma	1972
CNJNA 56--3 531	542	odhe foo hab fll, win, spri, bc willms,w; mclean/	1976
ECMOA 15--2 109	139	odhe eco relat, food, coast, bc cowan,im	1945

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CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS-----				AUTHORS-----	YEAR
JFUSA 35--3 285	292	odhe plants eaten, calif	robinson,cs		1937
JOMAA 25--2 198	199	odhe some unusual foods, oregon	sooter,ca		1944
JRMGA 2---4 206	212	odhe de-livesto fora stu, calif	dasmann,wp		1949
JRMGA 4---4 249	253	odhe ceel, status of brws, oreg	mitchell,ge		1951
JRMGA 6---1 30	37	odhe captv, cnsmpl natv forg sum	smith,ad		1953
JRMGA 30--2 116	118	odhe wild horse, doca, foods of	hansen,rm; clark/		1977
JRMGA 30--3 206	209	odhe food hab, sem-des gras-shr	short,hl		1977
JWMAA 6---3 210	220	odhe survey, winter range, oreg	edwards,ot		1942
JWMAA 7---1 119	122	odhe chaparral crown spr, brows	reynolds,hg; samp		1943
JWMAA 8---4 317	338	odhe supplemnt winter fee, utah	doman,er; rasmuss		1944
JWMAA 9---2 145	151	odhe wint study, mule d, nevada	aldous,cm		1945
JWMAA 10--1 54	59	odhe managemnt, black-tailed de	einarsen,as		1946
JWMAA 13--3 314	315	odhe forag observations in utah	smith,jg		1949
JWMAA 14--3 285	289	odhe sagebrush as a winter feed	smith,ad		1950
JWMAA 15--2 129	157	odhe in nebraska national fores	mohler,ll; wampo/		1951
JWMAA 15--4 352	357	odhe odvi, comp some plants eat	gastler,gf; moxo/		1951
JWMAA 16--2 148	155	odhe food habits of odhe, utah	smith,jg		1952
JWMAA 17--2 101	112	odhe competitio, sheep, in utah	smith,jg; julande		1953
JWMAA 19--2 215	225	odhe ceel, winter browse, idaho	hoskins,lw; dalke		1955
JWMAA 21--2 159	169	odhe fo hab, rang use, agr rela	wilkins,bt		1957
JWMAA 21--2 189	193	odhe ceel, fo hab, nat bis rang	morris,ms; schwarz		1957
JWMAA 22--3 r75	283	odhe food hab, rang use, montan	lovaas,al		1958
JWMAA 26--3 321	323	odhe tech, cost brows coll, nut	yeager,le; woloch		1962
JWMAA 29--1 27	33	odhe mont for wint habi, montan	klebenow,da		1965
JWMAA 29--2 352	366	odhe stom content anal, new mex	anderson,ae; sny/		1965
JWMAA 32--1 142	148	odhe obser use, forage, pl comm	miller,f1		1968
JWMAA 32--3 542	553	odhe forag avail, brows doug-fi	crouch,gl		1968
JWMAA 33--1 191	195	odhe chang food hab, herd reduc	nellis,ch; ross,r		1969
JWMAA 33--3 506	510	odhe odvi, identi forage, feces	zyznar,e; urness,		1969
JWMAA 36--4 1025	1033	odhe forag use, logging, colora	wallmo,oc; regel/		1972
JWMAA 36--4 1336	1340	odhe ceel, new meth rumen samp1	follis,tb; spille		1972
JWMAA 37--4 556	562	odhe accur field est, food habs	wallmo,oc;gill,/		1973
JWMAA 38--3 508	516	odhe forag intak est, cesiu-137	alldredge,aw; li/		1974
JWMAA 43--1 154	161	odhe summ diet, 1dgepl pne hab	deschamp,ja; urn/		1979
NAWTA 4---- 560	569	odhe ceel relationships, oregon	cliff,ep		1939
NAWTA 21--- 159	172	odhe nutri, popu dynam, n calif	taber,rd		1956
NAWTA 35--- 35	47	odhe eval wint use orchar, colo	harder,jd		1970
SWNAA 13--2 159	166	odhe food plants, habitat, okla	clark,tw		1968
XFPNA 112-- 1	12	odhe ceel, season forg use, ore	edgerton,pj; smit		1971
XPNWA 84--- 1	8	odhe spring browsng of doug-fir	crouch,gl		1968

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS-----			AUTHORS-----	YEAR
ATRLA 15--6 89	110	ceel foods, rumen content analy	dzieciolowski,r	1970
CAFNA 93--3 282	287	ceel summ, aut, wint diet, sask hunt,hm		1979
ELPLB 15-11 285	305	ceel winter food deter by track	dzieciolowski,r	1967
ELPLB 18-32 635	645	ceel variat, food select, envir	dzieciolowski,r	1970
JOMAA 17--3 253	256	ceel browsing, early wint, wash	skinner,mp	1936
JRMGA 5---2 76	80	ceel odhe, wint-rang util, wash	buechner,hk	1952
JRMGA 9---1 11	14	ceel elk, livestock competition	morris,ms	1956
JRMGA 26--2 106	113	ceel foods eaten, litera review	kufeld,rc	1973
JWMAA 2---3 131	134	ceel carrying capacity of range	young,va	1938
JWMAA 5---4 427	453	ceel effect wint brwsng, montan	gaffney,ws	1941
JWMAA 7---3 328	332	ceel livesto compet. summ range	pickford,gd; reid	1943
JWMAA 9---4 295	319	ceel roosevlt elk, olym pen, wa	schwartz,je; mitc	1945
JWMAA 26--1 97	100	ceel day feed hab	roosvlt, cal harper,ja	1962
JWMAA 27--3 412	414	ceel captiv elk herd in missour	murphy,da	1963
JWMAA 30--2 349	363	ceel range relat, livestc, mont	stevens,dr	1966
JWMAA 40--2 371	373	ceel rumen-cannul, evalua rumen	staines,bw	1976
JWMAA 42--4 799	810	ceel diet, activ, ldgpl pne hab	collins,wb; urne/	1978
JWMAA 43--2 568	570	ceel rear, train calv, food hab	hobbs,nt; baker,d	1979
NAWTA 3---- 421	427	ceel deer, foods, feeding habits	denio,rm	1938
NAWTA 3---- 747	755	ceel food habits, virginia	baldwin,wp; patto	1938
NAWTA 26--- 436	447	ceel habitat, jackson hole, man	casebeer,rl	1961
NCANA 101-- 505	516	ceel alal rang reltns, rcky mts	stevens,dr	1974
SFORA 26--1 43	50	ceel bark stripping phenomenon	mcintyre,eb	1972

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS-----			AUTHORS-----	YEAR
AMNAA 96--1 229	232	alal clv learn eat by fllw moth	edwards,j	1976
ATRLA 21--5 101	116	alal food habits, poland	morow,k	1976
CAFNA 83--4 339	343	alal observ, feed on aquatc, bc	ritcey,rw; verbee	1969
CAFNA 90--1 11	16	alal food hab, alask, rumen con	cushwa,ct: coady,	1976
CJZOA 54-10 1765	1770	alal wintr foods, evalu methods	joyal,r	1976
ECOLA 34--1 102	110	alal feedin habits, yellowst pa	mcmillan,jf	1953
JWMAA 21--1 53	57	alal wint food hab, jackson hol	harry,gb	1957
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CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS-----				AUTHORS-----	YEAR
JWMAA 24--1 52	60	alal	snows hare, foo & rng comp	dodds,dg	1960
JWMAA 24--1 162	170	alal	food habs, mvmt, pops, mon	knowlton,ff	1960
JWMAA 31--3 418	425	alal	odvi, comp wint rng nov sc	telfer,es	1967
JWMAA 34--3 559	564	alal	food habi, sw mont, cattle	dorn,rd	1970
JWMAA 37--3 279	287	alal	impnc nonbrows food, alask	leresche,re; davi	1973
NCANA 95--- 1159	1164	alal	use of bark, quebec	desmeules,p	1968
NCANA 101-- 195	215	alal	review food habits	studies peek,jm	1974
TLPBA 14--1 105	134	alal	diet optimizatn, genl herb	belovsky,ge	1978
WLMOA 48--- 1	65	alal	habitat select, forest mgt	peek,jm; urich,d/	1976

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS-----				AUTHORS-----	YEAR
ABSZA 30--4 1	44	rata	lichen stands, newfoundlan	ahti,t	1959
ATICA 31--2 125	132	rata	diet, peary carib nw terri	shank,cc; wilkin/	1978
ATYBA 55--- 22	25	rata	birch consump, fin lapland	haukioja,e; heino	1974
CAFNA 74--1 3	7	rata	foods, wells gray park, bc	edwards,ry; ritce	1960
CAFNA 80--4 238	241	rata	sieve mesh size, rume anal	scotter,gw	1966
CAFNA 81--1 33	39	rata	winter diet, northn canada	scotter,gw	1967
IUCSB 16... 155	159	rata	grazing in northern sweden	eriksson,o	1970
JWMAA 28--4 809	814	rata	eval rumen food anal, newf	bergerud,at; russ	1964
JWMAA 36--3 913	923	rata	food habits, newfoundland	bergerud,at	1972
LCHNB 6.... 165	167	rata	reindeer grazing in britai	gilbert,ol	1975
NAWTA 22--- 485	501	rata	hist, food hab, rang requi	cringan,at	1957
NCANA 96--3 333	336	rata	daily consmptio of lichens	desmeules,p; heyl	1969
NPOAA 1973- 113	123	rata	studies of reindeer, norway	hjeljord,o	1975
OIKSA 21--2 348	350	rata	food hab, hand-reared, new	bergerud,at; nola	1970
SZSLA 21--- 109	115	rata	winter nutr, reind, norway	gaare,e	1968

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS-----				AUTHORS-----	YEAR
BMAEA 516-- 1	63	anam	rang use, food habs, alfal	cole,gf	1956
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CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR

CAFGA 36--1 21	26	anam food habits, of california ferrel,cm; leach,	1950
CAFGA 38--3 285	293	anam spec refer, food hab, cali ferrel,cm; leach,	1952
CAFNA 91--3 282	285	anam prairie fires, cactus use stelfox,jg; vrien	1977
JOMAA 22--1 57	60	anam winter forag habits, oklah rouse,ch	1941
JRMGA 20--1 21	25	anam dosh, food pref, wyo deser severson,ke; may,	1967
JRMGA 32--5 365	368	anam livest, foods, dese steppe johnson,mk	1979
JWMAA 10--4 367	367	anam foods, southeastern montan couey,fm	1946
JWMAA 16--3 387	389	anam food habits, measurements mason,e	1952
JWMAA 26--3 327	328	anam rumen contents, sieve mesh dirschl,hj	1962
JWMAA 27--1 81	93	anam food habits, saskatchewan dirschl,hj	1963
JWMAA 32--2 399	401	anam foods, kansas, stock sites hlavachick,bd	1968
JWMAA 33--3 538	551	anam winter food hab, rang, mon bayless,sr	1969
JWMAA 34--3 570	582	anam forag use, prod, water con beale,dm; smith,a	1970
JWMAA 35--2 238	250	anam food hab, range char, albe mitchell,gj; smol	1971
JWMAA 40--3 469	478	anam diets, forag avail, coloro schwartz,cc; nagy	1976
NAWTA 12--- 185	192	anam range use in western texas buechner,hk	1947
NAWTA 15--- 627	644	anam rang ecol, wichita mt, kan buechner,hk	1950
UTSCB 29--1 3	6	anam season forage use, wes uta beale,dm; scotter	1968
WGFBA 12--- 1	61	anam food hab, abund, distribut sundstrom,c; hep/	1973

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JAPEA 11--2 489	497	bibi trphic ecol, shrtgras plai peden,dg; van dy/	1974
JRMGA 27--4 323	325	bibi doubl samp tech, diet comp peden ag; hansen/	1974
JWMAA 42--3 581	590	bibi diet, slv rvr herd, nw ter reynolds,hw; han/	1978
OFBIA 27--- 29	32	bibi plains bison, north ontari young,cm	1973

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR

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CGFPA 27... 1	21	ovca food hab, literatur review todd,jw	1972

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JWMAA 40--1 151 162 obmo rata, sum rang relns, nw t wilkinson,pf; sh/ 1976

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR

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JWMAA 19--4 429 437 oram food hab, rang use, montan saunders,jk,jr 1955
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JRMGA 24--5 346 351 ungu use of maj plant comms, bc mclean,a; lord,t/ 1971
JTBIA 60--- 93 108 concep modl of diet select ellis,je; wiens,/ 1976
JWMAA 19--2 206 215 many util wint brow, bi gam ran mcculloch,cy,jr 1955
JWMAA 36--4 1068 1076 many wint food, range use, mont constan,kj 1972
JWMAA 41--1 76 80 many foods of ungulates, colora hansen,rm; clark, 1977
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NAWTA 3---- 421 427 many elk & deer food, feed habs denio,rm 1938
NAWTA 12--- 223 227 many range competition, alberta cowan,im 1947
NAWTA 22--- 152 159 herb way to anal food hab, feca adams,l 1957
PECTD 1---2 33 50 many diets of larg herb mammals dzieciolowski,r;/ 1975
QRBIA 52--2 137 154 optimal foraging theory pyke,gh; pulliam/ 1977

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UNIT 1.2: PREFERENCES

Wild ruminants select some forages more often than others. This can be determined by noting a higher frequency of occurrence in the rumen than is found on the range. A lower frequency of occurrence in the rumen than on the range indicates that the species is avoided. Preferences may also be noted by direct observation. Selective grazing on dandelion flowers by white-tailed deer is easily observed when they appear on a pasture or lawn in the Northeast.

How do the preferences exhibited by wild ruminants relate to the digestibility of the forage chosen? The illustration below provides some indication of a positive relationships between the preferences of white-tailed deer and the digestibilities of dormant woody browse. The following preference list of winter deer foods includes tree and shrub species chosen by deer with the preferred or best liked foods at the beginning, second choice foods next, those readily eaten third, and starvation or poor food fourth. This arrangement is based on thousands of observations in hundreds of wintering areas over many years in all parts of New York (Severinghaus 1974).

Preferred or best liked (1)

Cedar, white or arbor-vitae	Dogwood, alternate leaved
Yew	Dogwood, flowering
Apple	Sumac, staghorn
Sassafras	Maple, red
Maple, mountain	Witch hobble
Wintergreen	Basswood
Maple, striped	

Second choice (2)

Elderberry	Honeysuckle
Elder, red berried	Hemlock
Ash, mountain	Wild raisin
Cucumber tree	Blueberry, highbush
Cranberry, highbush	Dogwood, silky
Nannyberry	Dogwood, red osier
Arbutus	Dogwood, round-leaved
Honeysuckle, fly	Willow*

Readily eaten (3)

Greenbrier	Cherry, choke	Hazelnut
Ash, white	Cherry, wild black	Juneberry or shadblush
Maple, sugar	Witch hazel	Holly, mountain
Arrow wood, maple leaved	Spice bush	Holly or winterberry*
Oaks*	Elm	Ash, black
Grape, wild	Choke berry, black	Blueberry, low sweet
Birch, yellow	Arrow wood	Blueberry, sour top
Birch, black	Honeysuckle, bush	Blueberry, low bush
Chestnut	Walnut, black	Leatherwood
Hickory	Butternut	

Starvation or poor food (4)

Pine, scots**	Birch, gray
Pine, pitch**	Ironwood, or hop hornbeam
Beech	Blue beech, or muscle wood
Sweet fern	Meadowsweet
Aspen or poplar	Cedar, red**
Gooseberry and currant*	Juniper, pasture**
Buckthorn	Cherry, fire or pin
Raspberry and blackberry	Hawthorn
Steeplebush	Laurel, sheep
Laurel, mountain**	Dogwood, grey-steemed
Rhododendron**	Locust, black
Pine, white**	Huckleberry, black
Pine, red or Norway**	Tamarack
Balsam**	Alder
Birch, paper	Spruces

Footnotes

* There are considerable differences in the preferences for different species in this genus. They vary from rapidly eaten to very low.

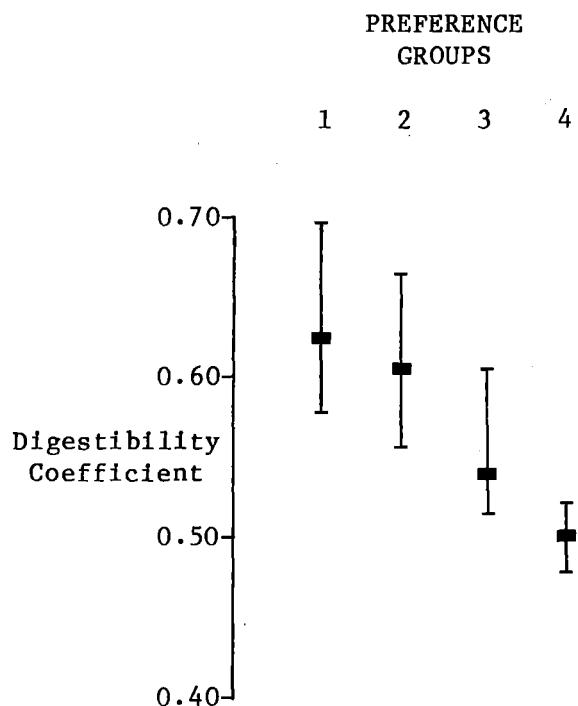
**These species are often browsed heavily enough to appear to be second choice food in areas where food is inadequate.

Digestibility coefficients for 16 species in these four preference groups have been determined at Cornell's Wildlife Ecology Laboratory. The results are given in the table below.

Species	Average Digestible Energy Coefficient November - March	Range	
PREFERRED:			
Apple, Basswood, Red maple, Sumac, White cedar	0.62	0.578	- 0.694
SECOND CHOICE:			
Hemlock, Willow, Red osier dogwood	0.60	0.556	- 0.662
READILY EATEN:			
Black birch, Hickory, Red oak, Sugar maple, White ash, Yellow birch	0.54	0.513	- 0.602
POOR FOOD:*			
Beech, Hawthorn	0.50	0.474	- 0.518

*Aspen and white pine are sometimes listed as poor food but are readily eaten in some areas. Calculated digestible energy coefficients are 0.60 and 0.62 respectively.

The relationship between preference groups and digestibility coefficients is illustrated below.



The average digestibility coefficient (heavy bar) decreases as the preference category goes down. The maximum and minimum digestibility coefficient within each category also goes down. Thus, the data indicate that digestibility coefficients are generally related to the preference group of the forage. Many of the plant species have not been included in these averages, so the numerical values are subject to change as more data are included.

The lists of serials with references containing information on forage preferences is over five pages long. These references, plus further information that may be gleaned from the eight pages of references to food habits in UNIT 1.1, may be used to compile a list of preference groups and digestibilities. The derivation of an equation for this relationship is discussed in WORKSHEET 1.2a.

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FOSCA	24--1 57	64	od-- hare, model feed preferenc silen,rr; dimock,	1978
JRMGA	11--1 18	21	od-- livest, tech study competn julander,o	1958
JWMAA	7---2 233	235	od-- food pref, black hills dee hill,r harris,d	1943
NAWTA	3---- 256	260	od-- meth stud browse pref, dee deen,jl	1938
NAWTA	34--- 146	154	od-- effect qualit food, intake nagy,jg; hakonso/	1969
NMWIA	13--6 4	5	od-- food preferenc; dept study lamb,sh	1968
PAABA	553-- suppl 3		od-- dee notions, where to feed tarr,ja	1953
TNWSD	1964. 1	16	od-- forag pref, capt deer, oak watts,cr	1964
TNWSD	35--- 16	26	od-- util, cutting, prescr burn philleo,b; cavan/	1978

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS-----			AUTHORS-----	YEAR
BLRPA	1---5 24	27	odvi diff brows, fertiliz plots mitchell,h1; hosl	1936
CJFRA	4---4 491	498	odvi use brows in encl, n bruns drolet,ca	1974
ECOLA	12--2 323	333	odvi mount laurel, rhododendron forbes,eb; bechde	1931
ECOLA	16--4 535	553	odvi wint reln to forests, mass hosley,nw: ziebar	1935
JANSA	36--6 1201	1202	odvi forage preferences, texas mccollum,j.; kot/	1973
JFUSA	51-11 815	819	odvi seas brows woody plt, penn bramble,wc; godda	1953
JFUSA	62--7 497	499	odvi deer prefer jack pine horton,kw	1964
JOMAA	18--1 77	80	odvi notes on winte foods, mich howard,wj	1937
JRMGA	21--3 164	166	odvi mid-sum diet, welder refug drawe,dl	1968
JRMGA	21--4 225	228	odvi doca, forage ratings texa drawe,dl: box,tw	1968
JRMGA	23--2 146	147	odvi relative browsing, 16 spec halls,1k; mccart/	1970
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JWMAA 5---3 314	342	odvi w-t d foods, united states atwood,el	1941
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JWMAA 12--1 109	110	odvi select nutritious forages swift,rw	1948
JWMAA 23--4 455	457	odvi summer browse pref, adiron webb,wl	1959
JWMAA 25--1 77	81	odvi nutr, accep val, hardw sla alkon,pu	1961
JWMAA 35--4 717	723	odvi fora pref, tame deer, penn healy,wm	1971
JWMAA 36--4 1344	1349	odvi brws selec, nov sc, n brun telfer,es	1972
JWMAA 39--2 330	336	odvi food dur oak mast abun, sc harlow,rf; whela/	1975
JWMAA 39--4 699	704	odvi consum artif browse, penne ullrey,de; youat/	1975
JWMAA 44--1 79	88	odvi seas brws sel, s pine habi blair,rm; brunett	1980
JWMAA 44--1 264	265	odvi use of cottonwood monocult wigley,tb; wesle/	1980
NAWTA 2---- 438	445	odvi food study, north carolina stegeman,lc	1937
NAWTA 31--- 205	212	odvi use woody brows, nort east stiteeler,wm,jr; s	1966
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PCGFA 8---- 83	85	odvi deer vs livest, gulf coast goodrum; reid,vh	1954
PCGFA 10--- 53	58	odvi nutri probl, sou pine type lay,dw	1956
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PPASA 51--2 105	108	odvi select brow spe, strip min brenner,fj; musau	1977
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SWNAA 24--2 297	310	odvi botan comp, nutr cont diet everitt,jh; gonza	1979
TAXNA 26--2 203	207	odvi evo impl sesqui terpene la burnett,wc; jone/	1977
TNWSD 25--- 35	39	odvi tame dee, fora pref determ healy,wm	1968
VIWIA 3---3 3	3	odvi on refuge pref peach twigs lewis,mg	1939
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WLSBA 7---1 21	24	odvi dangers of ranking forage harlow,rf	1979
XFNNA 111-- 1	4	odvi pref pne seedl near locust davidson,wh	1970

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CAFGA 36--3 235	240	odhe food habits, californ herd ferrel,cm; leach,	1950
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CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS-----				AUTHORS-----	YEAR
CNJNA	56--3	531	542	odhe foo hab fl1, win, spri, bc willms,w; mclean/	1976
CNJNA	57--2	375	378	odhe rel pref, 6 shrubs, bri co tucker,r; mclean/	1977
ECMOA	15--2	109	139	odhe eco relat, food, coast, bc cowan,im	1945
JRMGA	3----	130	132	odhe feedin deer brows sp, wint smith,ad	1950
JRMGA	4----4	249	253	odhe ceel, status of brws, oreg mitchell,ge	1951
JRMGA	6---1	30	37	odhe captv, cnsmp natv forg sum smith,ad	1953
JRMGA	7---6	262	265	odhe pref, wint forag, nor utah smith,ad; hubbard	1954
JRMGA	29--6	486	489	odhe palat, dg-fir, chem, spaci tucker,re; majak/	1976
JRMGA	30--2	116	118	odhe food, wld hors, doca, colo hansen,rm; clark/	1977
JRMGA	30--3	206	209	odhe fo hab, semi-des grass-shr short.h1	1977
JRMGA	31--3	192	199	odhe sprng for selec, sageb, bc williams,w; mclea	1978
JRMGA	32--1	40	45	odhe fora selec, wint ran, dosh smith,ma malech/	1979
JRMGA	32--3	226	229	odhe fora diver, diet sel, wint carpenter,lh; wa/	1979
JWMAA	29--2	352	366	odhe stom content anal, new mex anderson,ae; sny/	1965
JWMAA	30--3	471	475	odhe prefer, nativ for, doug-fi crouch,gl	1966
JWMAA	38--1	32	41	odhe plant char rel to feed pre radwan,ma; crouch	1974
JWMAA	38--4	830	836	odhe taste respons, brws extrc, rice,pr; church,d	1974
NAWTA	4----	560	569	odhe ceel relationships, oregon cliff,ep	1939
NAWTA	15---	512	517	odhe movable paddocks, for pref smith,ad; gaufin,	1950
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CAFNA	93--3	282	287	ceel summ, aut, wint diet, sask hunt,hm	1979
DRGBA	5---3	1	44	ceel food selection, rumen cont jensen,pv	1968
ELPLB	15-11	285	305	ceel winter food deter by track dzieciolowski,r	1967
ELPLB	18-32	635	645	ceel variat, food select, envir dzieciolowski,r	1970
JOMAA	17--3	253	256	ceel browsing, early wint, wash skinner,mp	1936
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JWMAA	2---3	131	134	ceel carrying capacity of range young,va	1938
JWMAA	5---4	427	453	ceel effect wint brwsng, montan gaffney,ws	1941
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 JWMAA 32--2 399 401 anam foods, kansas, stock sites hlavachick bd 1968
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CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR

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JWMAA 40--3 469 478 anam diets, forag avail, coloro schwartz,cc; nagy 1976

NAWTA 15--- 627 644 anam rang ecol, wichita mt, kan buechner,hk 1950
NAWTA 30--- 136 141 anam browse pref, sou west utah smith,ad; beale,/ 1965

UTSCB 29--1 3 6 anam season forage use, wes uta beale,dm; scotter 1968

WGFB 12--- 1 61 anam food hab, abund, distribut sundstrom,c; hep/ 1973

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR

AMNAA 96--1 225 229 bibi botan comp, diets, shortgr peden,dg 1976

JAPEA 11--2 489 497 bibi trphic ecol, shrtgras plai peden,dg: van dy/ 1974

JWMAA 42--3 581 590 bibi diet, slv rvr herd, nw ter reynolds,hw; han/ 1978

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR

JWMAA 39--1 108 111 ovca food of, southern colorado todd,jw 1975

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR

ovda

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR

CWOPA 35--- 1 19 obmo rata, diets, canadi arctic parker,gr 1978

JWMAA 40--1 151 162 obmo rata, sum rang relns, nw t wilkinson,pf: sh/ 1976

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR

JOMAA 48--2 242 248 oram food habits, colorado hibbs,ld 1967

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR

JOMAA 25--1 49	54	many food req alaskan game mamm palmer,lj	1944
JWMAA 36--4 1068	1076	many wint food, range use, mont constan,kj	1972
JWMAA 41--1 76	80	many foods of ungulates, colora hansen,rm clark,	1977
NAWTA 2---- 276	287	many utilizat of browse, kaibab julander,o	1937
NAWTA 12--- 223	227	many range competition, alberta cowan,im	1947
NAWTA 27--- 150	164	rumi rum cont anal, ran qual in klein,dr	1962
XFIPA 101-- 1	9	pap chrom, palat diff, sag hanks,dl; brunne/	1971

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR

ATRLA 14-18 247	262	caca the food of the roe deer siuda,a; zurowsk/	1969
JZOOA 185-- 270	273	caca dosh, comparison wint diet henry,bam	1978
OIKSA 32--3 373	379	caca dada, brws pressure, decid bobek,b; perzano/	1979

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR

ATRLA 12-25 367	376	bibo food, for ecosyst, lit rev borowski,s; kras/	1967
ATRLA 17-10 105	117	bibo food pref, requir, eur bis gebczyinska,z; kr	1972
ATRLA 17-13 151	169	bibo food pref, snowfree seasns borowski,s; koss/	1972

CHAPTER 12, WORKSHEET 1.2a

Estimations of digestibilities from preferences for the forage consumed

The general relationship between preference group and digestibilities illustrated in UNIT 1.2 may be expressed as a numerical relationship for use in simulating and computing animal-range relationships.

Suppose a simple linear regression was used to represent the relationship illustrated earlier. The x-y values are:

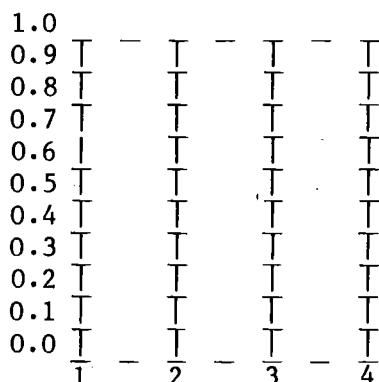
<u>PRCT</u>	<u>AVDC</u>
1	0.62
2	0.60
3	0.54
4	0.50

where PRCT = preference category and
AVDC = average digestibility coefficient.

The linear regression equation for these data is:

$$AVDC = 0.67 - 0.04 (PRCT); \quad R^2 = 0.97$$

Plot the points on the grid below and draw the regression line for comparison.



Please remember that these are sample data, and they should be considered subject to change. My suggestion is that the extensive list of references in this UNIT be used to compile a preference list and digestibilities determined from the extensive lists of references on nutritive characteristics given in CHAPTER 11. The best general relationship can then be determined for the species of interest in your area.

