

Lobos (*Canis lupus*) matadores de garranos salvaxes adultos (*Equus ferus atlanticus*)**Wolves (*Canis lupus*) preying on adult Garrano wild horses (*Equus ferus atlanticus*)****BAS-LÓPEZ, SANTIAGO**

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Este artigo recíbese o 14-XI-17, aceptado o 19-XI-17 e publicado electronicamente o 16-XII-17.

This paper was submitted 14-XI-17, accepted 19-XI-17, and electronically published 16-XII-17.

PALABRAS CLAVE / KEY WORDS

Depredación, garranos salvaxes adultos, lobos, Cotobade, O Acibal (Pontevedra).

Predation, adult Garrano wild horses, wolves, Cotobade, O Acibal (Pontevedra).

No curso doutras investigacións (BAS & CABEZUDO, 2016) atopamos unha egua garrana salvaxe morta no monte, con síntomas evidentes de depredación recente por lobos en monte Castelo (Cotobade). Foi o día 26 de agosto de 2014, tras romper esta unha cancela e soportar unha persecución de 2,3 km por unha pista que cruza un monte onde xa foran retirados todos os garranos salvaxes no ano 2013 (Egua nº 1 na táboa).

While carrying out other research work (BAS & CABEZUDO, 2016), a Garrano wild mare with apparent symptoms of recent predation by wolves was found in mount Castelo (Cotobade). It was on the 26th August 2014, after breaking a gate and being chased along 2.3 km through a path that crosses a mountain from where all the Garrano wild horses had already been removed in 2013 (mare No.1 in the table)

Barely fifteen days later, the incident was repeated nearby and, in fact, nowadays Garrano wild horses which have been hunted or attacked by wolves continue appearing in this mountain and in Serra do Acibal (Moraña - Campo Lameiro).

Nº	Sexo	Idade	a	b	c	d	e	f	Data	Lugar
1	Femia	12	Si	Si	Si	Si	Non	Non	26/08/2014	Cotobade
2	Femia	7	Si	Si	Si	Si	Non	Non	08/09/2014	Cotobade
3	Femia	11	Si	Si	Si	Si	Non	Non	18/09/2014	Cotobade
4	Macho	3	Non	Si	Si	Si	Non	Non	02/03/2015	Cotobade
5	Femia	11	Si	Non	Si	Si	Non	Non	20/03/2015	Cotobade
6	Femia	7	Non	Non	Si	Si	Non	Non	15/12/2015	O Acibal
7	Femia	4,5	Si	Non	Si	Si	Non	Non	28/02/2016	O Acibal
8	Femia	20	Non	Si	Si	Si	Non	Non	14/09/2016	O Acibal
9	Femia	>25	Non	Non	Si	Si	Non	Non	25/01/2017	O Acibal
10	Femia	7,5	Non	Non	Si	Si	Non	Non	13/11/2017	O Acibal

Táboa / Table nº 1

a: rastros, no chan, de persecución

c: mordeduras severas na gorxa

e: indicios de morte por outras causas (Rastros circulares feitos no chan polos cascos tentando erguerse, etc.)

f: Indicios de morte por arma.

a: Traces, on the ground, of pursuit

c: severe bites in the neck;

e: signs of death from other causes (circular traces on the ground caused by hooves trying to get up, etc.)

f: Death tricks for a weapon.

b: rastros de autodefensa no chan (Terra removida, vexetación rota...);

d: morte por desangrado;

b: traces of self-defense on the ground (grounds removed, vegetation broken ...)

d: death by exsanguination

Apenas quince días despois os feitos repetíronse cerca de aí e, de feito, continúan a día de hoxe aparecendo neses montes e na serra do Acibal (Moraña – Campo Lameiro) garranos salvaxes adultos depredados ou atacados polos lobos.

Cotobade

Cinco garranos salvaxes, entre adultos e poldros grandes, foron matados polos lobos entre finais de agosto de 2014 e setembro de 2015 entre Monte Castelo e o próximo monte A Arcela (Cotobade).

Rexistramos tamén dous ataques frustrados a cadansúa egua adulta nos que foi levemente ferida unha e severamente outra no ano 2015.

Os indicios non nos permitiron confirmar ao 100%, como depredación por lobos, outros catro probables casos en Cotobade. Todos os sucesos de Cotobade son atribuíbles ao mesmo grupo de lobos (BAS, 2016; BAS & CABEZUDO, 2016).

Serra do Acibal

Atopamos cinco eguas depredadas por lobos entre 23 de setembro de 2015 e 13 de novembro de 2017.

Dúas tiñan 20 anos ou máis; pero as outras tres menos de 8 anos. Incluímos na táboa cos números 6 a 10. A falta de datos de persecución e autodefensa nalgúns casos débese a que morreron sobre pistas forestais bastante duras (a, b na táboa).

Finalmente o día 24 de febreiro do 2017 na serra do Acibal, seguimos os rastros sobre terreo areoso de tres lobos, que sorprenderon e perseguiron a galope a unha grea de garranos adultos e subadultos, que non tiñan ningún poldro. Descoñecemos o final de dita acción, pois non atopamos ningún garrano morto na zona. Pero os rastros evidenciaron a tentativa.

Diversos traballos científicos coinciden en sinalar que nesta parte de Galicia os poldros garranos salvaxes son a presa preferida dos lobos, estando moi especializados sobre eles (GUITIÁN, et al, 1979; SAZATORNIL, 2008; LAGOS, 2013; LÓPEZ BAO et al, 2013; BAS, 2016).

LAGOS (2013) indicaba que a depredación sobre os garranos salvaxes en Monte Campelo limitábase ós poldros de sete meses ou menos. BAS (2016) citaba oito

Cotobade

Five wild Garranos, between adult and big foals, were killed by the wolves from the end of August 2014 to September 2015 between Mount Castelo and the nearby mount A Arcela (Cotobade).

In 2015 we also recorded two unsuccessful attacks to their respective adult mares in which one was slightly wounded and other severely wounded.

Evidence wasn't enough to firmly confirm four other probable cases in Cotobade as predation by wolves. All the incidents in Cotobade are attributable to the same group of wolves (BAS, 2016; BAS & CABEZUDO, 2016).

Serra do Acibal

Five mares hunted by wolves were found from the 23rd September 2015 to the 13th November 2017. Two were 20 years old or more; but the other three had less than 8 years old. They were included in the same table with the numbers six to ten. The lack of signs of chasing or self defence in some cases is due to the fact that they died on quite hard trails (a and b in the table).



O Acibal, 2015.

Egoa de 7 anos desangrada pola gorxa, matada polos lobos.
Garrano wild mare of 7 years bled on neck, killed by wolves.

Finally, on 24th February 2017, in the range of Acibal, we followed the track on sandy ground of three wolves, which caught by surprise and galloped after a herd of adult and sub-adult Garrano horses, which did not include any foals. The end of this action is not known, since no dead Garranos were found in the area. However, the trail proved that there had been an attempt.

meses ou menos reseñando unha observación de campo dun ataque fracasado sobre un poldro de 12-13 meses.

Temos referencias de besteiros da serra Acibal (José Luis Calvo e José Güimil) sobre lobos depredadores de 14 garranos salvaxes adultos na dita serra nos anos 70. Tamén unha en Asturias, sobre un grifón asturcón na serra de Pedroriu en 1994 (Llaneza, *com. pers.*)

Na presente nota reséñanse dez casos de depredación de garranos adultos, dos que sómentes dúas eguas eran vellas. Tamén dous ataques que deixaron ás eguas feridas e un recente ataque a unha grea sen poldros.

Tanto nos montes de Cotobade como na serra do Acibal determinadas circunstancias propiciaron a aparición desta conduta dos lobos:

1) A aplicación do Decreto de Identificación Equina da Xunta de Galicia (142/12 de 14 de xuño) trouxo como consecuencia que se vendesen numerosos garranos salvaxes para os matadoiros. Moitos besteiros non poden soportar os gastos e trámites burocráticos que impón dito decreto.

A poboación de garranos dos citados montes de Cotobade pasou de máis de 300 no 2010 a uns 80 no 2017. Outro tanto sucede na serra do Acibal, onde pasaron de ser uns 320 a escasos 110. As estimacións para toda Galicia pasaron duns 17.000 garranos no ano 2010 a uns 8000 na actualidade.

A consecuencia de todo isto é unha gran escaseza de poldros no outono e inverno nestas serras, polo que os lobos buscan outras presas, aínda que sexan máis difíciles de depredar.

A gráfica 1 reflicte a dependencia dos lobos respecto a os garranos salvaxes no xa citado Monte Castelo.

2) O éxito dos catro primeiros ataques comprobados foi facilitado por peches, mallas metálicas e aramadas que hai nestes montes. Aí os lobos foron quen de acurrallar ás eguas.

3) Non se trata de casos illados, pois sucederon en dúas serras diferentes onde campean diferentes lobos. Tamén outros besteiros informáronnos de feitos similares na serra de Coto de Eira (Mondariz), nos derradeiros seis anos. A situación dos garranos salvaxes na dita serra é similar ás xa citadas do Acibal e de Cotobade.

Diverse scientific work agrees on pointing out that in this part of Galicia Garrano wild foals are wolves' favourite prey, being highly specialized in them (GUITIÁN, et al, 1979; SAZATORNIL, 2008; LAGOS, 2013; LÓPEZ BAO et al, 2013; BAS, 2016).

LAGOS (2013) pointed out that predation on Garrano wild horses in Mount Campelo only included seven-month-old or younger foals. BAS (2016) mentioned eight-month-old or younger, describing a field observation of a failed attack on a foal of 12-13 months old.

There are also reports from horse breeders in the mountain range Acibal (José Luis Calvo and José Guimil) of 14 adult Garrano wild horses preyed on by wolves in that range in the 70s. There is also one in Asturias, about an Asturcon (Asturias pony) in Serra Pedroriu in 1994 (Llaneza, *com. Pers.*)

In the present study, 10 cases of predation on adult Garranos are described, of which only two mares were old. There is also reference to two attacks which left two injured mares and a recent attack to a group of Garranos with no foals.

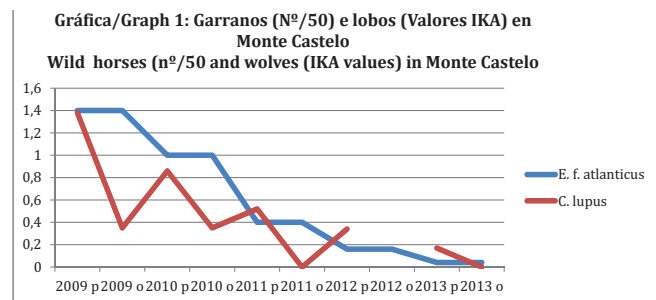
Both in the mountain of Cotobade and in Serra do Acibal, particular circumstances favoured the appearance of this type of behavior in wolves:

1) The implementation of the decree of Equine Identification by Xunta de Galicia (142/12 of 14th June) brought about the sale of many Garrano wild horses to the slaughterhouses. Many horse breeders cannot bear the expense and the bureaucratic procedure that the decree imposes.

The population of Garrano wild horses in these mountains in Cotobade has been reduced from more than 300 in 2010 to about 80 in 2017. The same happens in Serra do Acibal, where the number has decreased from 320 to scarcely 110. The estimated number for the whole of Galicia was reduced from 17,000 Garranos in 2010 to around 8,000 at present.

The consequence of all this is a great shortage of foals in autumn and winter in these mountains. Therefore, wolves look for other preys, even though they may be more difficult to hunt.

Graph 1 shows wolves' dependency on Wild



Gráfica 1: Valores de IKA de lobos en Monte Castelo (Cotobade) e censo de garranos salvaxes en dito monte (p: primavera; o: outono). (BAS & CABEZUDO, 2016).

Graph 1. IKA Values of wolves in Monte Castelo (Cotobade) and census of wild garrano in this mountain (p: spring; o: autumn).

Recomendamos a redución ao mínimo imprescindible a instalación de mallas, aramadas e peches no monte. Tamén debe evitarse subvencionar tales instalacións.

É urxente a derogación do citado Decreto de Identificación Equina da Xunta de Galicia, que está conducindo á extinción a moitas poboacións de garranos salvaxes de Galicia e poñendo en perigo a outras tantas de lobos.

AGRADECIMENTOS

A Francisco Cuiñas, pola súa aportación dalgúns datos de campo e a Sabela Pérez pola tradución.

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Garranos in the aforementioned Monte Castelo.

2) The success of the first four attacks that have been verified, was facilitated by the enclosures, chain-link fencing and wire fences found in these mountains. There the wolves had the chance too trap the mares.

3) They are not isolated cases, since they took place in two different mountain ranges were different wolves wander. Besides, other horse breeders informed of similar incidents in the mountain range Coto de Eira (Mondariz), in the last six years. The situation of Garranos in this mountain is similar to the ones in Acibal and Cotobade.

We recommend that the use of chain-link and wire fences and enclosures be reduced to a minimum. The subsidies for the installation of these types of enclosure should also be avoided.

The aforementioned decree of Equine Identification by Xunta de Galicia must be abolished urgently, since it is leading many populations of wild Garranos to their extinction and jeopardising many others of wolves.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To Francisco Cuiñas, by the contribution of some field data and to Sabela Pérez for the translation of this text.