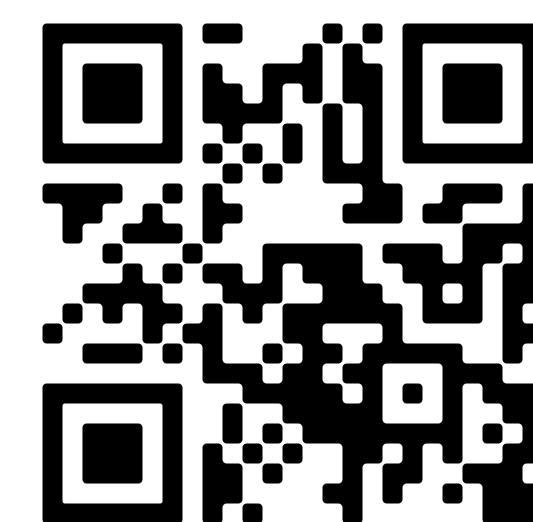
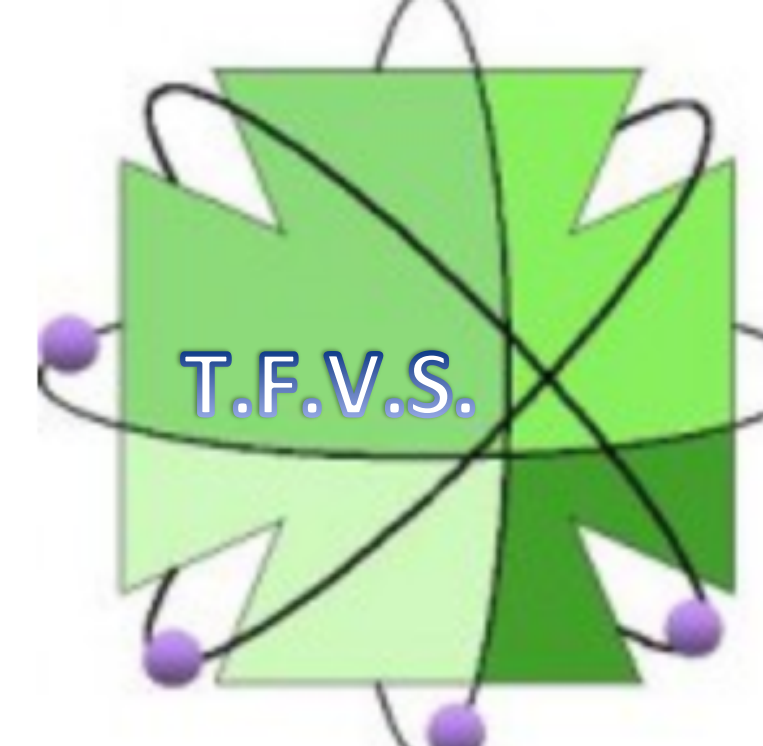


Do court sentences reflect the reality of wildlife poisoning in the natural environment? The Spanish case.



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INTRODUCTION

- Poisoning of wildlife is considered, since 1995, as a crime by the Spanish Criminal Code.
- Use of poisoned baits to kill “unwanted” animals is a great threat for both domestic and wild animals.
- Poisons to kill animals are not selective; therefore animals poisoned by baits or other legally used pesticides, may suffer secondary poisonings.
- In Spain, according to WWF, between 1992-2013, the number of animals poisoned reached 18,503 individuals, including kites, vultures, eagles, wolves and bears.

MATERIALS & METHODS



VENENO NO - Action to fight illegal poison use in the natural environment in Spain
LIFE08 NAT/E/000062

Court sentences related to wildlife poisoning and the use of toxic baits pronounced in Spain between 1994 and 2019.



DATA COMPARISON

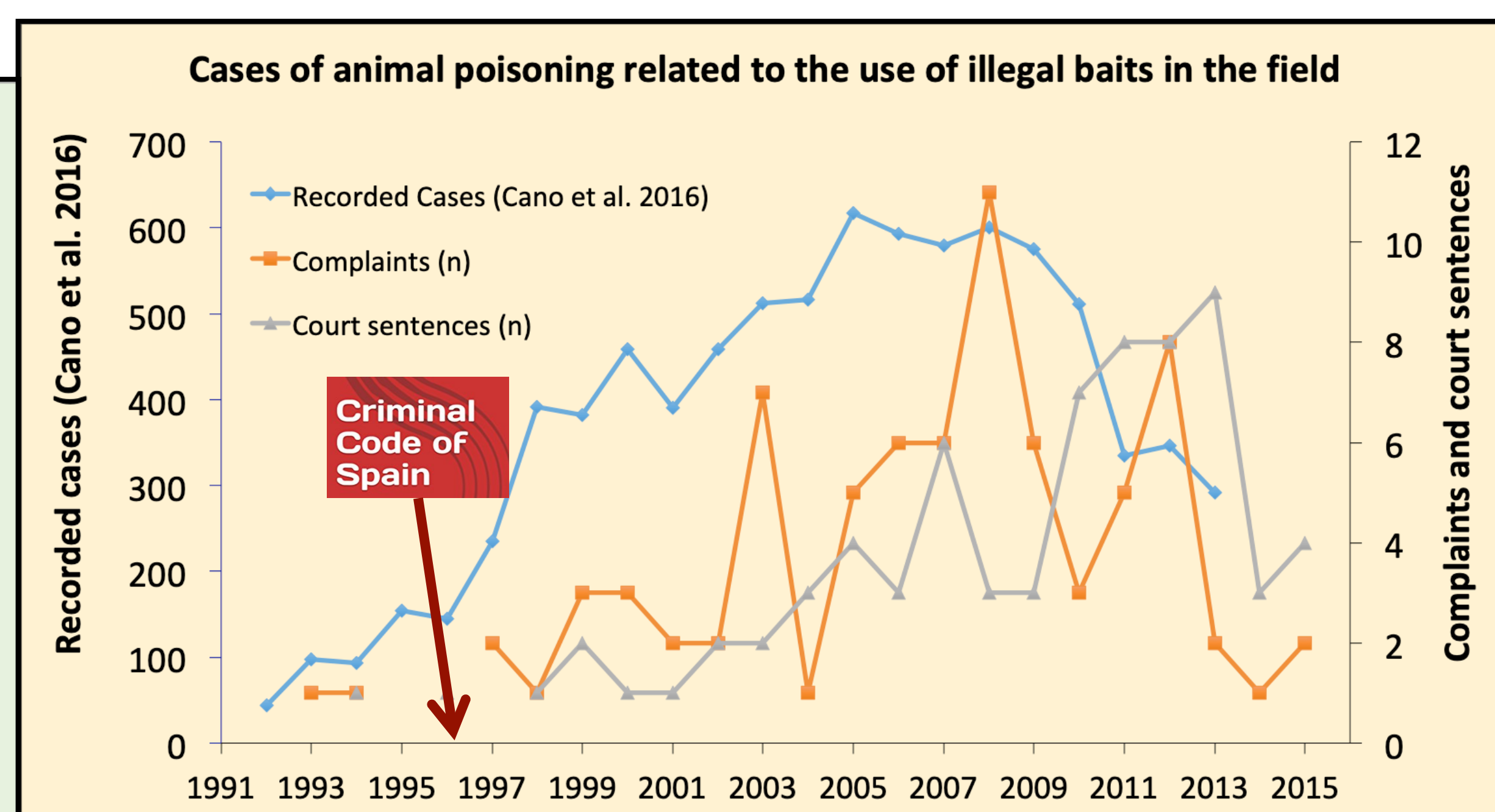
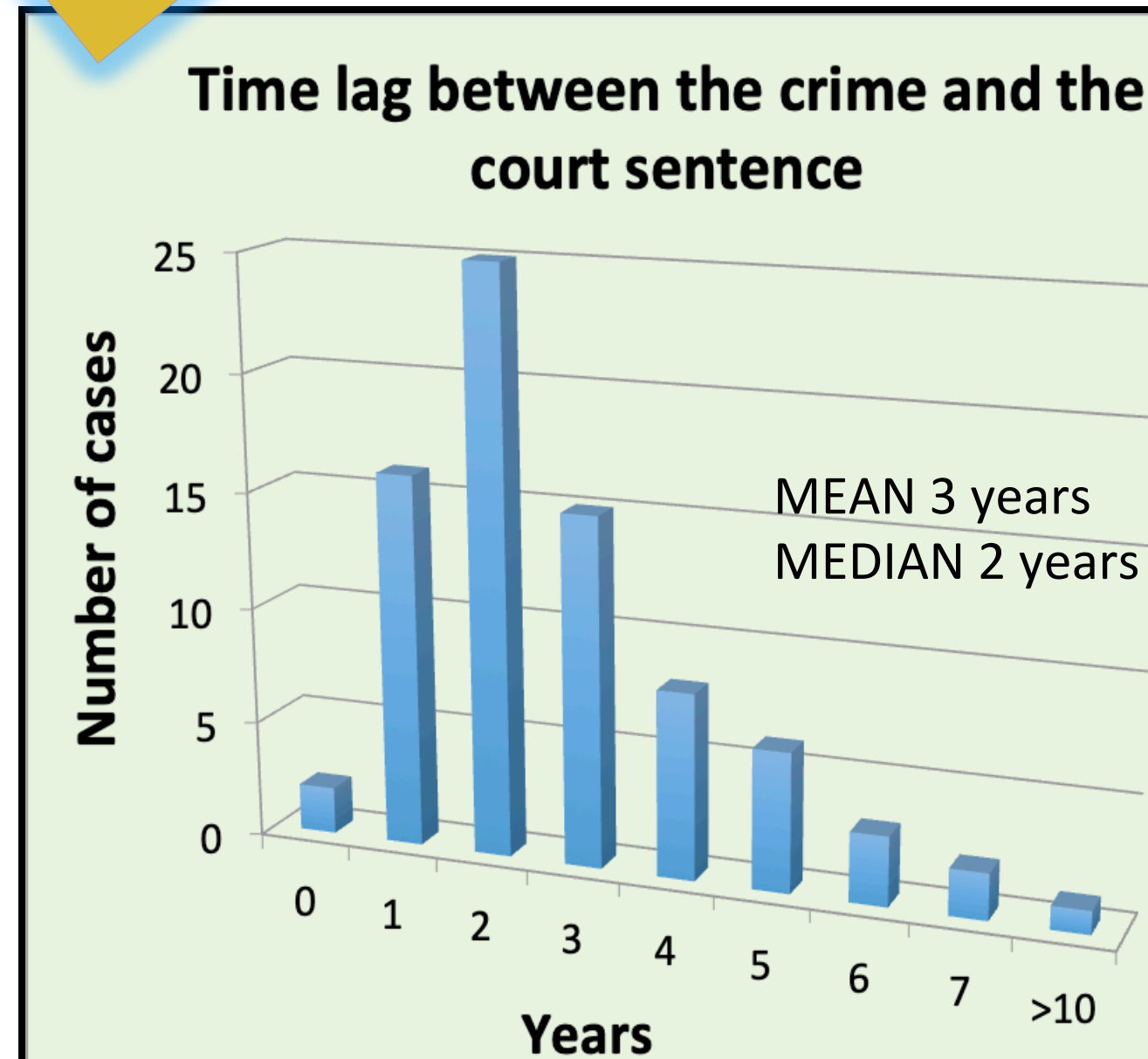
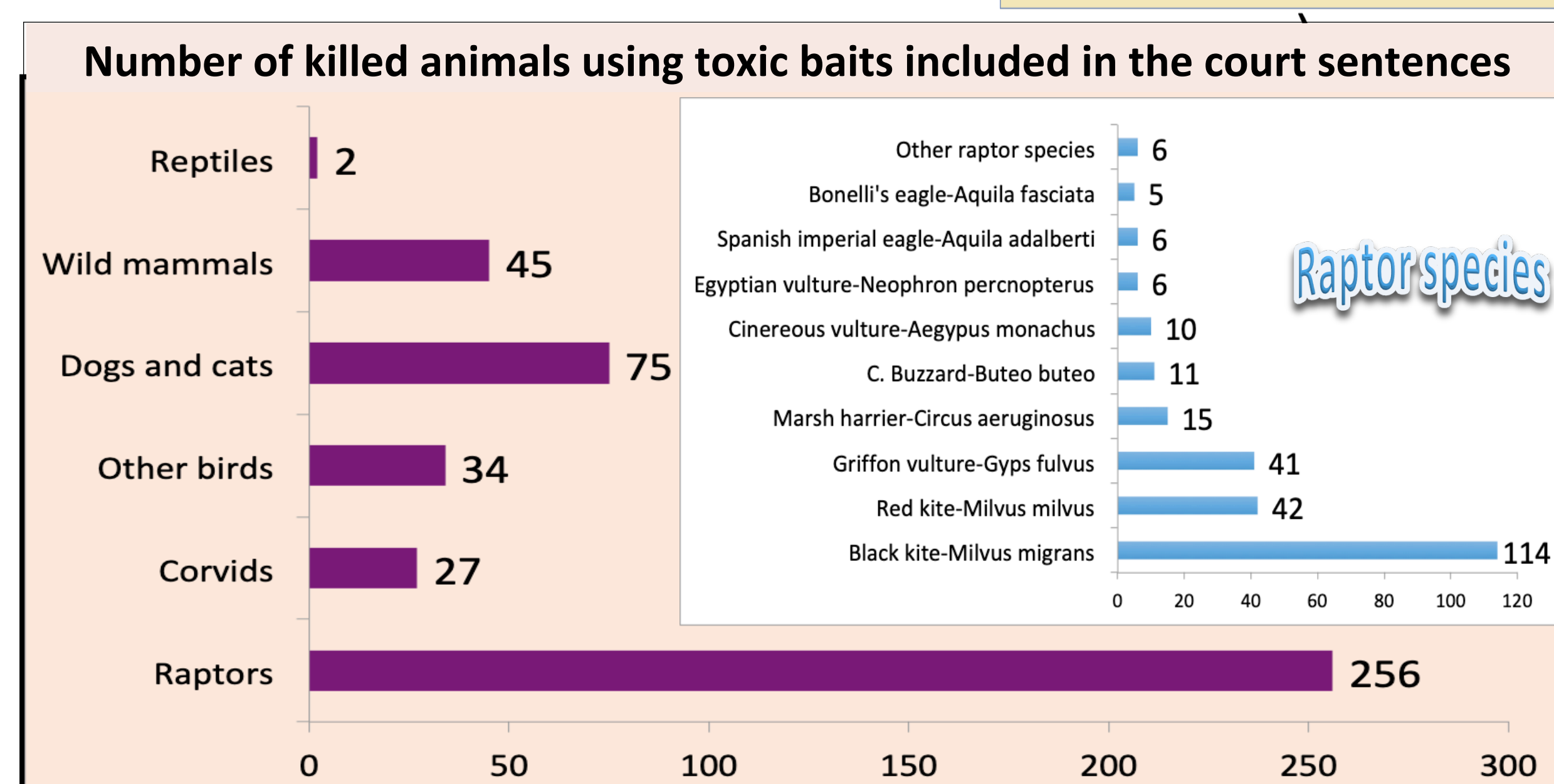


The poison in Spain: Evolution of the wildlife poisonings (1992-2013)

OBJECTIVE

The aim of this study was to review the Court sentences about animal (wildlife) poisoning pronounced in Spain, comparing the data with epidemiologic data reported by the regional authorities, in order to evaluate if the court sentences reflect the real situation of wildlife poisoning in Spain.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION



VEREDICTS

- The vast majority of the Court sentences concluded with guilty verdicts (92.5%).
- Imprisonment sentences were imposed in 43% of the trials.
- Economic fines and disqualification to hunting activities were imposed in 81% of the sentences.

CONCLUSIONS

- The compounds involved in poisonings in the Court sentences partly match with the poisoning cases reviewed in the document published in 2016 by WWF and SEO/Birdlife.
- Aldicarb and carbofuran (carbamates) are the compounds most commonly used to kill wildlife, followed to a lesser extent, by two convulsant compounds (strychnine and endosulfan).

- 50% of the poisoned animals had necrophagous dietary habits.
- The mean time elapsed between the crime and delivery of the judgment of the Court of First Instance is close to 3 years (median, 2 years).
- According to the Spanish Criminal Code, this offence carries a maximum prison sentence of two years and/or economic fines.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Project 20945/PI/18



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