

DAILY TORPOR IN THE EDIBLE DORMOUSE *Glis glis*

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ABSTRACT. Daily torpor was regularly observed in captive Edible Dormice *Glis glis*, but there is a lack of such records under natural conditions. I report observations of five Edible Dormice in torpor encountered during regular controls of c. 190 nestboxes in the Białowieża Primeval Forest (north-eastern Poland). The observations came from June 1994 and from June and July 1997. Rectal temperature of four individuals in torpor (16.5°C to 19.4°C) found in 1997 was lower than the morning air temperature.

Key words: Edible Dormouse, *Glis glis*, daily torpor, Białowieża Forest, Poland

YEDİUYUR *Glis glis* 'LERDE GÜNLÜK UYUŞUKLUK

ÖZET. Białowieża Primeval Ormanı'nda (kuzey-doğu Polonya) bulunan kutuyuvaların periyodik kontrolleri sırasında uyşuk durumda rastlanan beş yediuyurla ilgili gözlemler rapor edildi. Gözlemler Haziran 1994 ile Haziran ve Temmuz 1997' de yapıldı. 1997' de uyşuk durumda bulunan dört Yediuyurdaki rektal sıcaklıklar (16,5 °C – 19,4 °C) sabah hava sıcaklığından daha düşüktür.

Anahtar sözcükler. Yediuyur, *Glis glis*, günlük uyşukluk, Białowieża Ormanı, Polonya

Dormice of the *Glirinae* subfamily occurring in the temperate Palearctic are known of the lethargy appearing both as hibernation in winter (1, 2) and as daily torpor in summer (3, 4). As far as Poland is concerned, Pucek (5) stated summer lethargy only in one out of four dormice species occurring there, namely the Common Dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* (Linnaeus, 1758). In the Edible Dormouse *Glis glis* (Linnaeus, 1766) daily torpor is regularly observed in captive animals (4; M. Wilz, personal communication). However, records of torpor under natural conditions have been so far lacking.

During regular controls of c. 190 bird nestboxes, conducted since 1993 at the same sample plot in Białowieża Primeval Forest (Puszcza Białowieska) in north-eastern Poland, I met Edible Dormice in the state of presumed daily torpor on several occasions.

On 10th June 1994, a sexually-active adult male (judged from its prominent testicles) was found in torpor. Torpor was suggested by the position of animal (i.e. curled up with a muzzle and paws completely hidden) and by its very slow breathing, distinctly cool body and a lack of response to handling. The same box was empty on the next day, as it had been also two days before. The animal was presumably in short torpor (e.g. 6, 7).

In 1997, I found further four Edible Dormice in torpor (1 male and 3 females; one female was in its 2nd year, the remaining individuals were older) on 15th June, 14th and 19th July, respectively. The symptoms suggesting lethargy were the same as in the male met in 1994. Rectal temperatures of these four dormice were (air temperature in parentheses): 16.5°C (20.8°C), 19.0°C (19.3°C), 19.3°C (20.5°C) and 19.4°C (21.3°C), respectively. Since nestboxes were checked in morning, the air temperature was likely to increase during the day.

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