



IAS TASK IN BALEARIC ISLANDS

TWO CASES, SOME LESSONS

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We work against IAS from past century:

Rats in islets (Major project: Rats in Dragonera, political and internal controversy, but biological success: rats, mice and rabbits eradicated in 2011, with helicopter)

Carnivores in sea birds colonies

Coati (quite eradicated), racoon,

Carp, parrots, Florida terrapine, etc

Different plant species, mainly *Carpobrotus* and *Penisetum* .

A professional & motivated team. KEY FACTOR

Case one: **Goats in Es Vedra** (Ibiza)

Nature reserve, goats illegal from 2000 (Existed for longtime, eradicated in 70's by fishermen, re-introduced in 80's by island owners, illegally)

For long time, attempts with owners. No matter for agreement.

In february 2016, we act. Two days, 54 animals shot.

(Each year, more then 2.000 wild goats are shots in major islands, specially Mallorca , and 6.000 more, shots by hunters.

Vedrà: **GREAT SCANDALE:**

Politicians + landowners + animalists + media

Legal procedure against politicians, always in way. 3 animals survived (now there are 6!)





Dimisión de los responsables de la matanza de cabras en Es Vedrà



15 monts latter, the eradication is always stopped by Justice Court.

Some animals are in the islet

But results are obvious...

**Comparació de l'estat de
parcel·les de
Es Vedrà
(2016-1017)**

**Lab. de Botànica Dep. de
Biologia**

ITIB



**Universitat de les
Illes Balears**

Departament de Biologia





2016

2017



CASE 2:

RHINECHIS SCALARIS in Formentera. From scepticism to prudent optimism.

Bioinvasion in 2002 ?

Probably with old ornamental olive trees

Social alarm, risk for lizards?

But scepticims on results... Guam experience: imposible to eradicate.

Local political interest.



We work in Ibiza (*Hemorrhois hipocreppis*), over 3.500 ha. Control aim.

We work in Mallorca, (*H.hipoceppis* & *R. scalaris* , but other snakes are longtime present, and protected! (*Macroprotodon mauretanicus*)

For some years, result were very unsatisfied, very few animals captured.

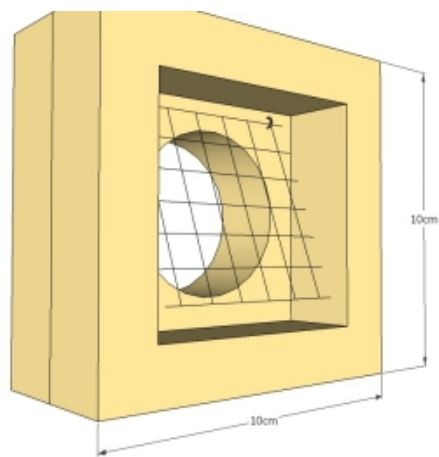
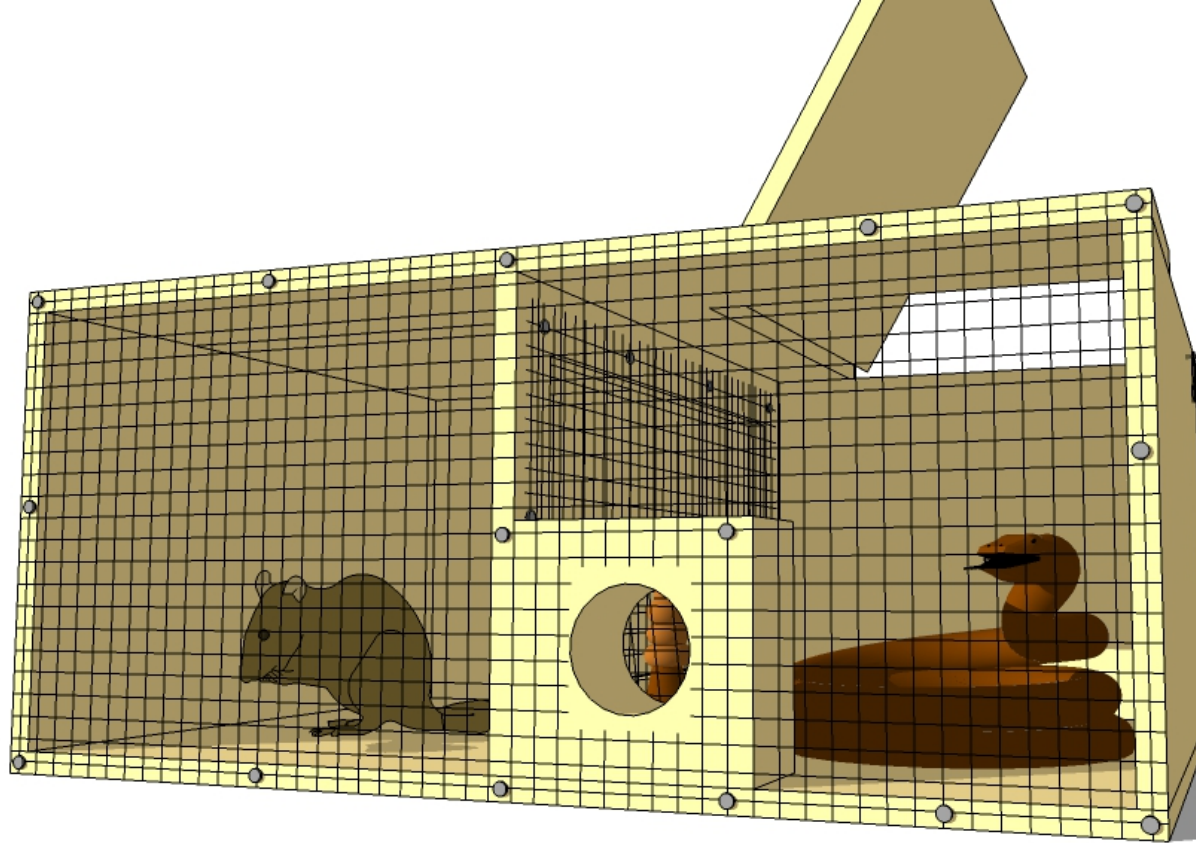
Traps, nets, dogs...

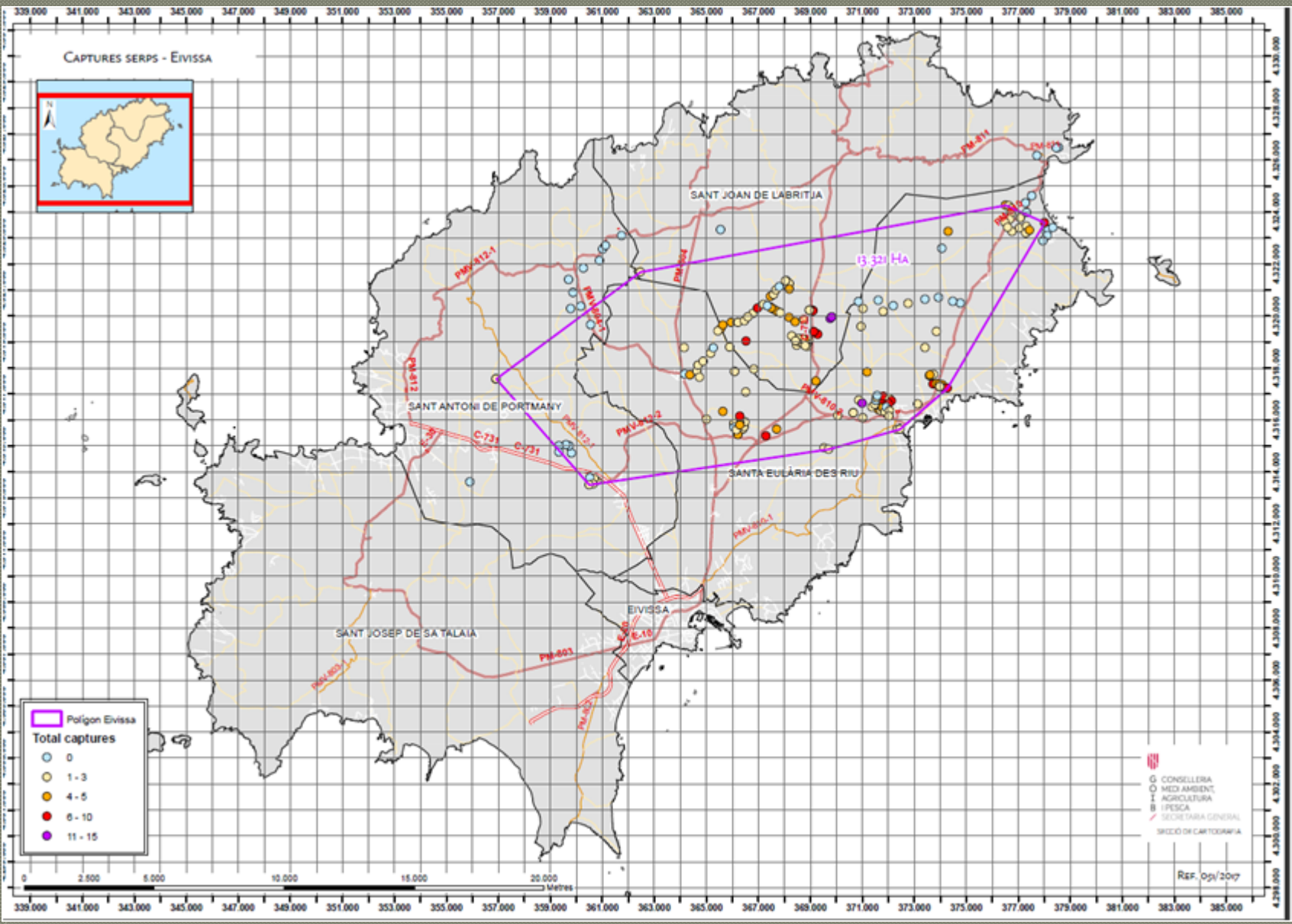
But in 2016, traps were improved, and we are able to increase captures dramatically!

Ibiza 2017: 280 snakes with 190 traps + people

Formentera 2017: 270 snakes with 160 traps

Mallorca, 2017: 40 snakes with 200 traps.

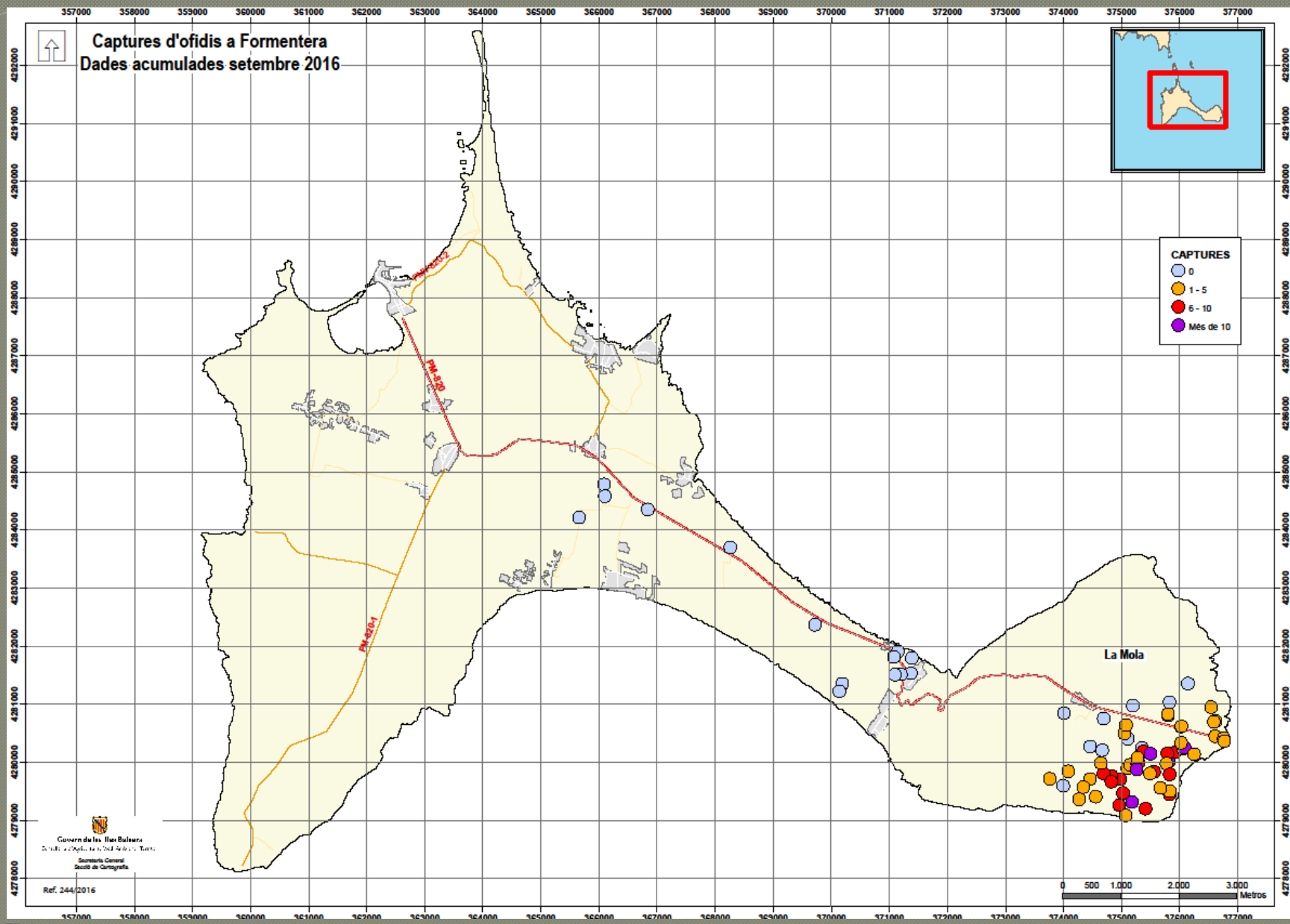




13.321 ha

Captures d'ofidis a Formentera

Dades acumulades setembre 2016



325 ha



Figures 1 i 2. Alumnes de grau de Biologia analitzant els continguts estomacals i present informació d'altres paràmetres d'interès en exemplars de *R. scalaris*.

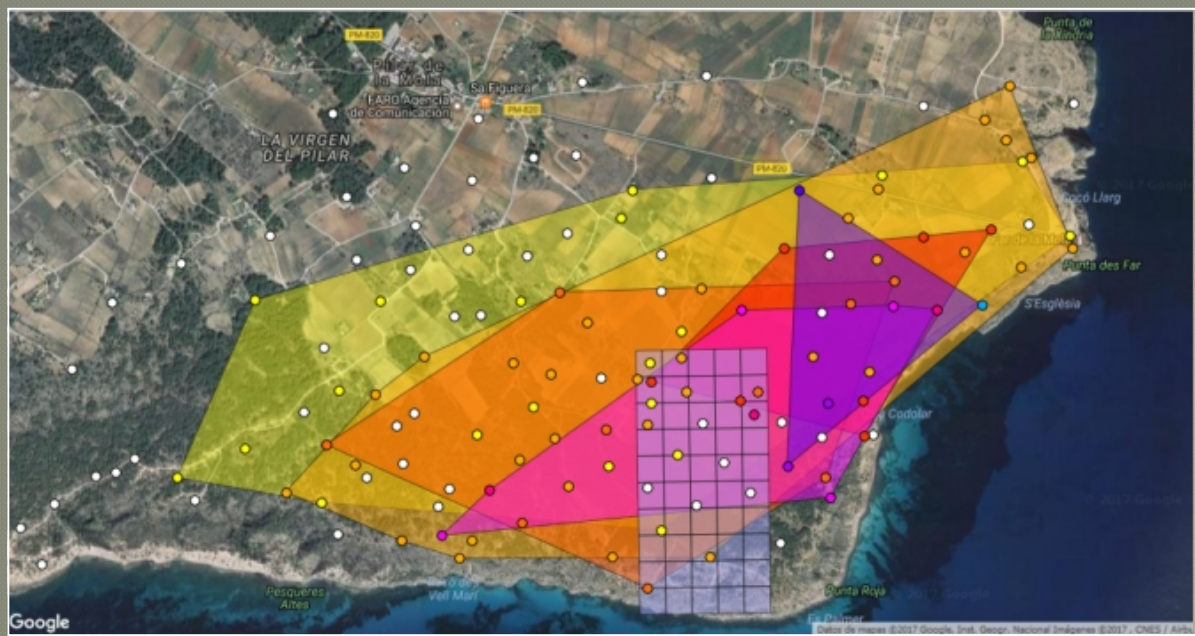


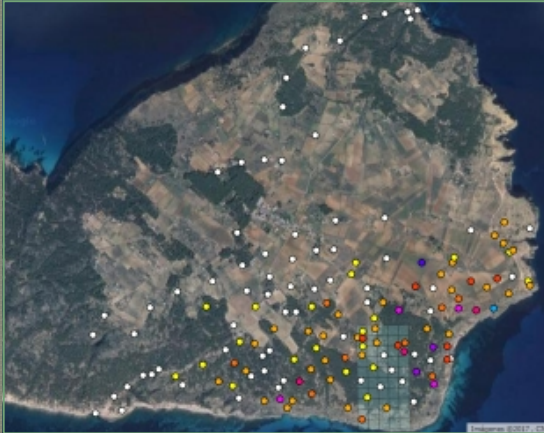
Figura 5. Contingut estomacal consistent en sis exemplars de *Podarcis pytiusensis formenterae* i algunes coes trobats en un únic exemplar.





Capt x trap x day:





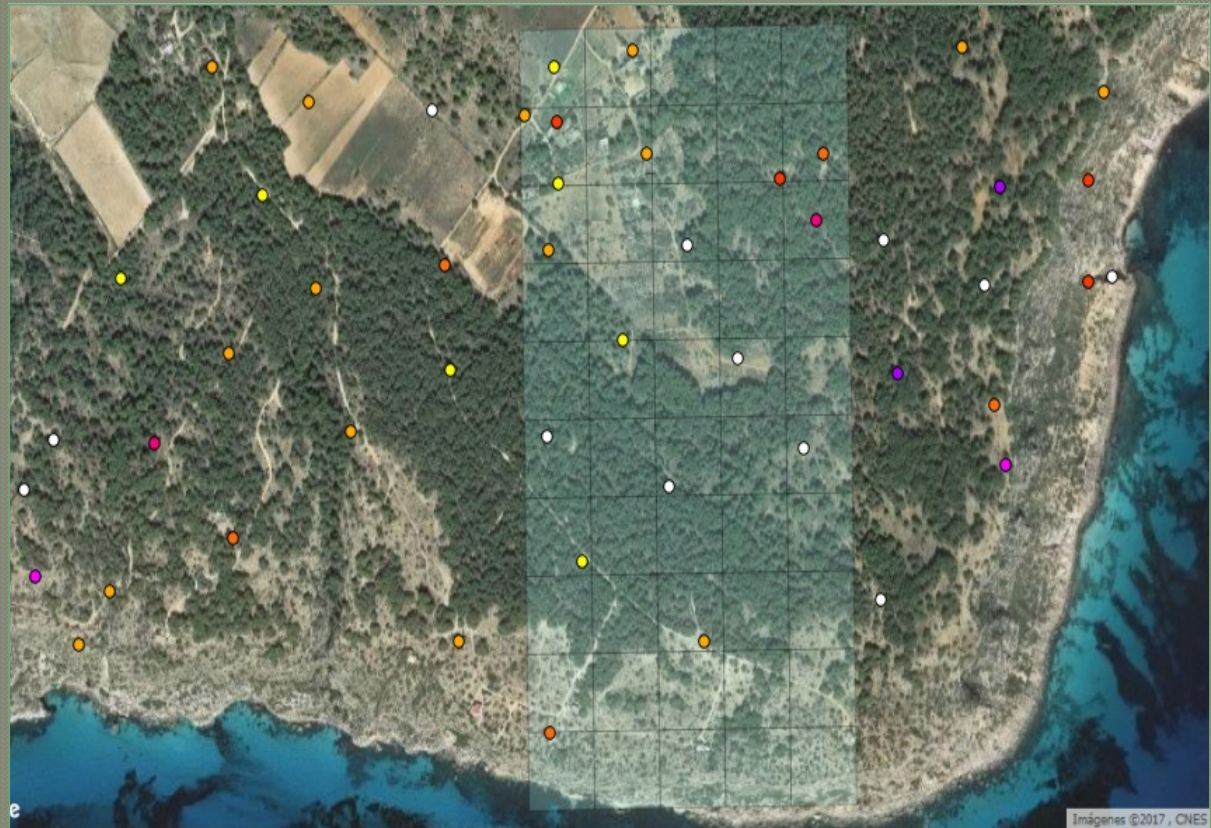
- What is the home range for snakes?
- How much effective is the sistem?
- How long we need trap for succes?

Experiment on way:

50 snakens will be marked and alived.

Capture-recapture test.

An other experience with Radio Tracking, with less animals, for long time. (If grants are available)



1. Logical is only one of components of the reality: 60 goats can be more important than 8000 are.

2. Experience is not always the key: snakes can be eradicated against previous results...

... or not!

3. Pesimist? Optimist? ACTIVIST.

4. *WE NEED **FACTA, NON VERBA***



We have good stakeholders for snakes eradication.

Thank-you!

