

Rabbit Information - 1

This information sheet illustrates some of the rabbit work being done by the Animal and Plant Control Commission in South Australia.

Prepared by M.W. Last
November 95

These preliminary results are from a rabbit control study area in the northern Flinders Ranges SA. Samples of the amount of rabbit, kangaroo and sheep dung were counted to produce the following results.

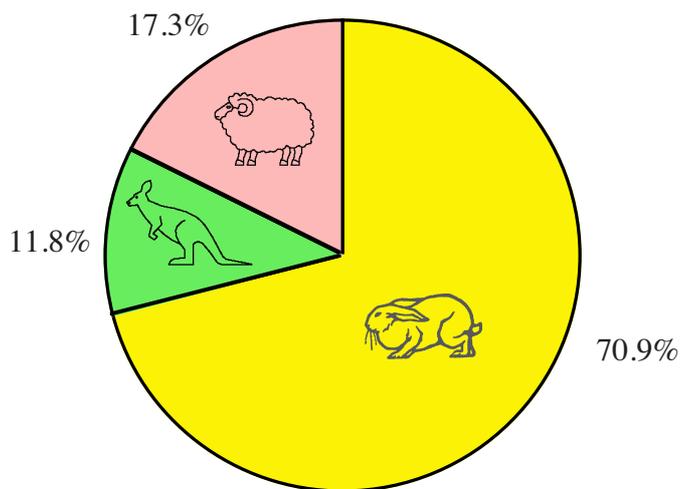


Figure 1

This picture (pie chart) shows what the situation was like before the rabbits were removed from the study area. There were many more rabbits in this area than kangaroos.

Before the rabbit control study area was ripped, to remove the rabbits, there was more rabbit dung (70.9%) than any other dung collected.

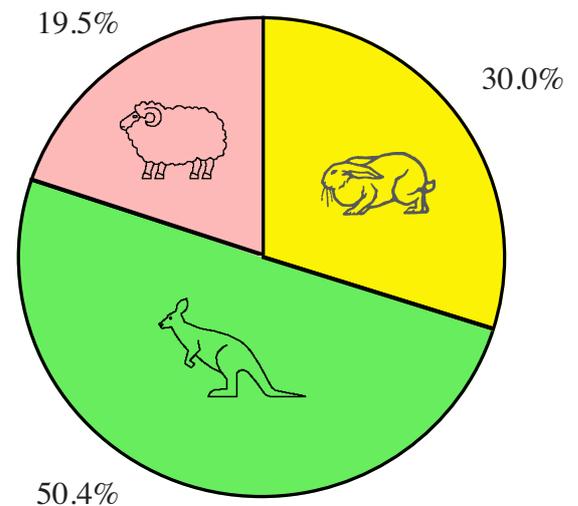


Figure 2

This picture (pie chart) shows what happened after the rabbits were removed from the rabbit control area. This area was kept free of rabbits for 12 months, however rabbit dung was washed in from neighbouring areas which resulted in 30% of the rabbit dung found.

When the rabbits were removed from the rabbit control area, kangaroos increased in number by 350% according to dung counts.

Comments

Rabbit Calicivirus has now spreading over the country areas in South Australia. Many people may not understand what has happened, hence a calicivirus fact sheet was produced by the author in November 1995 and is available from the APY Land Management Office at Umuwa on the APY Lands.

It is clear from the pictures on this page that if rabbits are reduced in number due to calicivirus or by some other cause, kangaroo numbers can be expected to increase. It's important for Aboriginal people to have a balance between the rabbit and kangaroo numbers on the lands as they are both an important part of the local diet. More information about this topic is available from Primary Industries and Resources SA, GPO Box 1671, Adelaide SA 5001, tel. 08-8226 0222.