

HABITAT OCCUPANCY AND FEEDING ACTIVITIES OF THE GRASSCUTTER (*Thryonomys swinderianus*) IN A DERIVED SAVANNA VEGETATION IN ABEOKUTA, NIGERIA

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Habitat occupancy, food resources and feeding activities of the grasscutter (*Thryonomys swinderianus*) in a derived savannah vegetation in Abeokuta were studied. Data were collected along 10m-interval transect within each of the two plots (100m x 100m) established in five different habitat types: Tall Perennial Grass (TPG), Harvested maize/cassava farm (HM), Mixed grass, Forb, Shrub (GFS), Riparian valley (RV), and *Antheophora ampullacea* (AA). Quantitative habitat elements (major grasses, forbs, shrubs and trees) and grasscutter activities based on indices (animal droppings, grass cutting patterns, food left-overs) etc and direct sightings were reported. Grasscutter activities were recorded in four of the five sites studied. The mean distance between activity centres was $X = 17.73 \pm 2.83\text{m}$. The differences between the mean distance of activities centres in the various plots were significant ($P < 0.01$). The mixed grass, forb and shrub plots (GFSP) were shown to be intensively used by the grasscutters while the tall perennial grass plots and the riparian valley plots were adjudged to be most extensively used. Habitat occupancy and food choice vary according to sites. *Andropogon gayanus* was the most consumed diet of the grasscutter during this study. Ranked order of the food choices or preferences (highest to least) was *Andropogon gayanus* (95), *Andropogon tectorum* (94), *Panicum maximum* (41), *Zea mays* (32), *Imperata cylindricum* (19) and *Manihot utilisima* (1).