

Abstract

Estimates were made of rodent longevity, population biomass and production in a dry sub-humid grassland area in Kenya. The results were based on a live-trapping study made over a 27-month period. During this time fourteen species of rodents and four species of insectivores were recorded from the area of the trapping grid. The most numerous species were *Praomys natalensis*, *Mus triton*, *Mus minutoides* and *Lemniscomys striatus*.

Breeding took place in both wet seasons, coinciding with peaks in rodent populations. Densities ranged from 6.6 ha⁻¹ to 52.4 ha⁻¹, and estimates of net annual production varied from 5485 g ha⁻¹ year⁻¹ to 7221 g ha⁻¹ year⁻¹. Rodent populations appear to turn over every six to nine months.

The results are discussed in relation to studies in other tropical grassland areas of Africa.