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Population Dynamics of Microtine Rodents

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This project is designed to investigate the influences of environmental variables on microtine populations.

The year 1969 was particularly critical since Microtus populations in Wyoming are approaching a peak in their cycle. Visits to the Research Station were made in May, July and October. Data were collected on population density, reproductive activity and success, pineal gland activity and pituitary gland activity. Plant samples were taken throughout the season for extraction and bioassay of estrogenic potency. By midsummer, densities of Microtus montanus were extremely high. Reproductive success was considerably higher than that recorded for 1968.

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