

**Supervisor's review of David Homoláč's master's thesis entitled:  
*Spatio-temporal activity of African ungulates at water sources in Mogalakwena River Reserve, South Africa***

As an ecologist, I mainly focus on birds of the African continent, so when David came to me asking for a B.Sc. project on ungulates, I was a bit hesitant. However, from our first meeting, I was convinced that David was an exceptionally motivated student. At the time, I was in the process of searching for new collaborations in southern Africa, thus I accepted the situation and decided to use David's efforts to help establish them. His thesis topic, the role of water sources on the spatio-temporal distribution of ungulates in the African savannah, fit well with my general research interests. A successful collaboration began.

Together, we initiated a research relationship between my institution and the Mogalakwena Research Centre (<https://www.mogalakwena.com/research-centre.html>) in South Africa, where David spent four months conducting fieldwork and collecting data for his thesis. Of all the students there, he was reported to be the most active and even inspired a passion for research among his colleagues. He wrote his B.Sc. thesis in English, which is not standard at Charles University, motivated by the desire to make it accessible to English-speaking African researchers.

During his studies, David acquired exceptional fieldwork and analytical skills. Given that I am not a mammalogist and was not in the field with him most of the time, he demonstrated a high degree of independence. After collecting his data, he decided to spend more time in Africa and applied for an internship in the Kalahari. He spent six months at the Kalahari Research Centre (<https://kalahariresearchcentre.org/>) in South Africa. In addition to his studies, David helped me with montane forest conservation in Cameroon as a sort of part-time job.

David's thesis provides a thorough description of the utilization of water sources by ungulates in a small nature reserve in the Limpopo region. David amassed a significant amount of data, analyzing it with modern approaches including AI and Bayesian statistics. Surprisingly, when finishing the thesis, he struggled a bit to adhere perfectly to the time plan for completing the final written output, which is evident mainly in the Discussion section. Nonetheless, he did an extraordinary job and was the most motivated student I have ever encountered. The co-supervisor's assistance also contributed to making the thesis a well-crafted piece of work that meets the requirements of our institution. Therefore, I wholeheartedly recommend the thesis for acceptance.

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David Hořák