

**Body composition estimation and nutritional status of
African buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*) in the Kruger National
Park**

By

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ABSTRACT

Bovine tuberculosis (BTB) was first detected in the African buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*) in the Kruger National Park (KNP) in 1990. This study was initiated to investigate the effects and interactions of age, sex, region / habitat and tuberculosis status on the body condition and carcass composition of African buffalo in the KNP. Data from approximately 600 buffalo sampled in 1998 were analysed. It was found that gender, age and region where buffalo were sampled affected carcass composition. It was also found that body condition scores (BCS) and the percentage fat in the bone marrow (%BMF) of buffalo were poor predictors of proximate body composition. BTB did not influence body composition. Mineral levels in the liver of buffalo were also examined. There were regional differences in Se, Cu and Mn levels. It was also found that Cu levels were lower in buffalo that tested positive for BTB. Region, age and BTB status had an influence on carcass pH.

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