

METADATA

The variables in three different data sets (text in Courier New below) will be given a brief explanation (details regarding recording dates etc. are given in the main text):

- Improved_(Exp. I).txt
- Reduced_(Exp. II).txt
- LongTermFeeding.txt

VARIABLES COMMON FOR THE THREE DATA SETS

Predictor variables

- id: gives each female a unique identification number (factor variable).
- int_bm: initial maternal body mass measured in kilograms (Kg; numerical variable).
- year: the experiments were replicated over two different years (factor variable with 2003 and 2004 as levels).
- season: responses to the experimental manipulation were recorded in three different seasons (factor variable with July, September and January as levels).

Response variables

- maternal_bm: female body mass measured in Kg (numerical).
- offspring_bm: offspring body mass measured in Kg (numerical).
- offspring_pres: female reproductive success (a binary variable where 0 = barren/calf not present and 1 = calf present).

PREDICTOR VARIABLE NOT COMMON FOR THE THREE DATA SETS

Reduced (Exp. I) and Improved (Exp. II) experiments

- manipulation (factor variable with two levels):
 - control (both experiments): control animals kept in the original herds.
 - improved (Exp. I): the group of animals moved from the herd utilizing natural pastures to the herd receiving supplementary winter feeding (short-term improved winter feeding conditions).
 - reduced (Exp. II): the group of animals moved from the herd receiving supplementary winter feeding to the herd utilizing natural pastures only (short-term reduced winter feeding conditions).

Long-term feeding manipulation

- manipulation (factor variable with two levels):
 - control: the control group in Exp. I, i.e. animals utilizing natural pastures only.
 - improved: the control group in Exp. II, i.e. animals receiving supplementary winter feeding.

GENERAL NOTES

- The data are stored as tab-delimited text files, and missing values are labelled NA.
- All three data sets can be simultaneously imported as separate objects into R (www.r-project.org) from the file `Data.RData`.