

Toft, S., Cuende, E., Olesen, A. L., Mathiesen, A., Meisner Larsen, M. M. and Jensen, K. 2019. Food and specific macronutrient limitation in an assemblage of predatory beetles.  
– Oikos doi: 10.1111/oik.06479

## Appendix 1

### Construction of reference curve and calculation of confidence limits

As the data on self-selected lipid:protein (L:P) ratio following the pre-treatments were heteroscedastic and could not be transformed to meet the parametric assumptions, they were tested with a proportional hazards test. This revealed that the self-selected L:P ratios depended on pre-treatment L:P ('diet' but was independent of sex (Wald test, diet  $\chi^2_4 = 79.63$ ,  $p < 0.0001$ ; sex  $\chi^2_1 = 0.002$ ,  $p = 0.96$ ; diet  $\times$  sex  $\chi^2_4 = 8.72$ ,  $p = 0.068$ ). Therefore, sexes were merged to form a single curve. We used the mean L:P ratios from each pre-treatment diet group to model the relationship between the self-selected L:P ratio and the pre-treatment L:P ratio.

A general relationship between the pre-treatment L:P ratio ( $LP_{pt}$ ) and the subsequently self-selected L:P ratio ( $LP_{ss}$ ) can be written as

$$(L:P_{ss})^{Z_1} = a + b \times (L:P_{pt})^{Z_2} \quad (A1)$$

where  $a$  and  $b$  are constants;  $Z_1$  and  $Z_2$  are exponents that linearize the relationship. Backwards indication of the L:P ratio experienced in the field ( $L:P_{field}$ ) is obtained by inserting the value of L:P1 in Equ. 1 instead of  $LP_{ss}$  and solving for  $LP_{pt} = L:P_{field}$ :

$$(L:P_{field})^{Z_2} = \frac{(L:P_{ss})^{Z_1} - a}{b} \quad (A2)$$

We found a very close fit between  $LP_{ss}$  and  $LP_{pt}$  by reciprocal transformation:  $1/L:P_{ss} = 1.123 + 4.015 * L:P_{pt}$  ( $R^2_{Adj.} = 0.99$ ,  $F_{1,3} = 356.0$ ,  $p = 0.0003$ ) (Fig. 3). Therefore,  $Z_1 = -1$  and  $Z_2 = 1$ .

The 95% confidence limits around the estimate was calculated from the formula in Hald (1960, p. 551):

$$(L:P_{field})^{Z_2} \pm t_{97.5} \frac{s}{b} \sqrt{\frac{1}{n_s} + \frac{1}{n_r} + \frac{[(L:P_{field})^{Z_2} - \bar{x}]^2}{SSD_x}} \quad (A3)$$

where  $t$  has  $n_r - 2$  degrees of freedom;  $s$  is the root mean square error around the regression line of the reference curve;  $n_s$  is the sample size of the field data;  $n_r$  is the sample size of the reference curve (= 5);  $\bar{x}$  and  $SSD_x$  are the mean and the sum of squares of deviation of the transformed  $LP_{pt}$  ratios in the reference data. We consider the  $L:P_{field}$  estimates significantly different from the estimated intake target if the target lies outside the confidence limits.

## References

Hald, A. 1960. Statistical theory with engineering applications. – Wiley.

## Appendix 2

Table A1. The double-test procedure: Repeated-measures MANOVA of total consumption and lipid:protein (L:P) ratios of the consumed food by *A. dorsalis*, comparing results for the first and the second self-selection test ('Time'). Significant p-values in bold.

	df	F	p
<b>Total consumption</b>			
All data			
Time	1,101	85.82	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
Time×field	4,101	5.23	<b>0.0007</b>
Time×sex	1,101	15.35	<b>0.0002</b>
Time×field×sex	4,101	1.32	0.2691
Females			
Time	1,51	64.98	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
Time×field	4,51	3.92	<b>0.0075</b>
Males			
Time	1,50	23.32	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
Time×field	4,50	1.69	0.1671
<b>L:P ratio</b>			
All data			
Time	1,101	13.11	<b>0.0005</b>
Time×field	4,101	1.02	0.4014
Time×sex	1,101	2.35	0.1282
Time×field×sex	4,101	1.35	0.2561