



Landcare Research
Manaaki Whenua

Use of DNA and sniffer dogs to estimate predator abundance

Al Glen





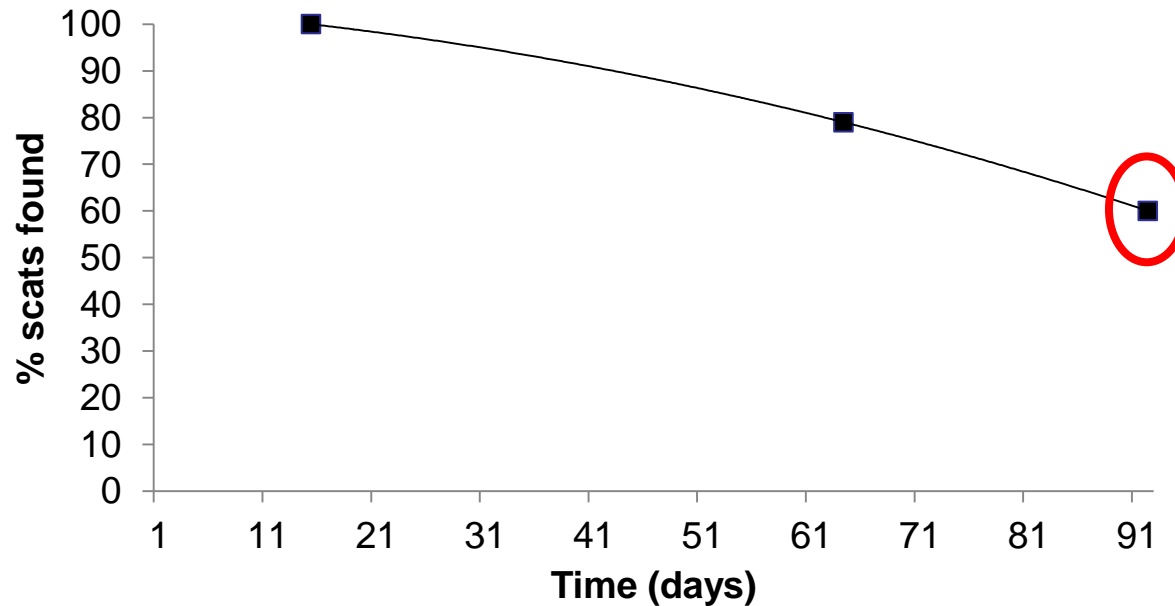
THE MYSTERIOUS CASE OF THE DISAPPEARING POO: FOX SCAT DEGRADATION IN TASMANIA

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- 27 fox scats placed at 9 sites in Tasmania





Scat DNA

- Identify species:
 - Cheap
 - Scats don't have to be fresh
- Identify individual:
 - More expensive
 - Scats must be fresh





Future research

- How effective are dogs at finding scats of NZ species?
- Which is more cost-efficient:
 - ID scats to species + occupancy modelling?
 - ID scats to individual + mark-recapture?
- How do sniffer dogs + scat DNA compare to other methods, e.g. camera trapping?

