

WHAT DOES THE EUROPEAN STARLING EAT (*STURNUS VULGARIS*) IN ALGERIA, REGION OF ITS WINTERING AREA?

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ABSTRACT

In the region that includes the Mitidja plain and Great Kabylie, the European starling is considered a major pest of the olive tree especially the cultivated one. It is a question of specifying the trophic components of this species in Mitidja which belongs to its wintering area. In the Starling's food menu, the vegetal part is mainly not olives, but dominated by Pistachio-mastic fruits. As for the animal part, far more important than the vegetal part, is mainly insects Coleoptera and Hymenoptera. A better understanding of the diet of this Sturnidae will improve the methods to fight against it. The analysis of the stomach contents of starling captured and sacrificed explain the proportions of vegetal and animal trophic components.

KEYWORDS: European Starling, Food Intake, Wintering Area, Algeria