

Tab. 1. Body measurements of twelve *Vulpes cana* specimens from the United Arab Emirates. Mass in gram, other measurements in mm. Captive bred 1, was measured at 5 months of age. Captive bred 2, was measured at 1 year of age.

Sex	Area	TL	T	Hf	E	Mass
♂	Wadi Ziqt	747	307	91	87	-
♂	Wadi Ziqt	800	345	100	91	-
♀	Wadi Ziqt	657	317	88	89	-
♀	Wadi Ziqt	735	300	100	85	1442
♀	Wadi Shuwayhah	705	320	90	85	955
♂	Wadi Shawkah	736	326	98	82	1248
♀	Wadi Shawkah	762	332	100	84	1245
♂	Jebal Hafit	750	350	105	80	1242
♀	Wadi Wurayyah	710	315	85	87	-
♀	Wadi Bih	722	315	99	91	1200
*♂	Captive Bred 1	695	330	100	80	1040
*♂	Captive Bred 2	785	335	105	91	1550
Mean: Males		752	332	100	85	1270
Mean: Females		715	317	94	87	1211
Mean: Total		734±2	324±5	97±1	86±1	1240±73

## Discussion

The areas where *V. cana* were caught indicate the wide range of this species in the UAE. They probably occur throughout the Hajar Mountain range, which dominates the eastern part of the UAE. This mountain range extends from the Munsandam Peninsula in the north, southwards into Oman (Fig. 1). Due to the shy nature and nocturnal foraging, *V. cana* is not readily observed. It is suggested that *V. cana* is more abundant than previously believed. It is possible that *V. cana* even form part of the diet of the Arabian Leopard, *Panthera pardus nimr* (GEFFEN et al. 1992b). YOSEF (1998), who states that *P. p. nimr* are known to prey on foxes, supports this. SPALTON (pers. comm.), who researched leopards in the Jebal Samhan area in the Dhofar region of Oman, however, states that although Blanford's Fox were common in the study area, no evidence of their inclusion in the diet of leopards was observed. More data on the distribution of *V. cana* as well as thorough research on faecal analysis of *P. p. nimr* and Caracal, *Caracal caracal schmitzi*, scats are needed to confirm *V. cana* as prey for larger predators.

According to the data available (n = 12), it would seem that sexual dimorphism is not evident. The body measurements as indicated in Tab. 1 are similar to those as supplied by HARRISON & BATES (1991). The exception being the mass. The mean mass of 1240 g (n = 8) for the UAE specimens is more than the mean mass of 873.7g (n = 3) and 710g to 956g as indicated in HARRISON & BATES (1991) and ROBERTS (1997), respectively. Body weights as presented by GEFFEN et al. (1992c, 1992d) in Israel, vary between 0.9 kg and 1.4 kg, and are similar to our findings.

The status of *V. cana* in the UAE is uncertain. According to ROBERTS (1997) they are rare in Iran, Afghanistan, the Central Asian Republics and northern Pakistan, but more plentiful in south-west Balochistan (Pakistan). GEFFEN et al. (1993) states that although *V. cana*'s distribution is restricted to a specific habitat type, it is a locally common desert carnivore in