



Fig. 4. Blanford's Fox (*Vulpes cana*) habitat in the UAE. Note the inaccessibility of the terrain (Photo: P. CUNNINGHAM).

respectively. Of the twelve (ten caught and two bred in captivity) foxes observed in the UAE, three males had white tail tips and three had black, while five females had black tail tips (one female unknown). According to LLEWELLYN-SMITH (2000) four of the five infrared photographed individuals had black tail tips in the Ru'us al Jibal, east and south east of Ras al Khaimah, UAE. All five dead specimens encountered during this study had black tail tips. Red Fox, *Vulpes vulpes arabica*, have only been observed with white tips. Using tail tip colouration as an identification characteristic between *V. v. arabica* and *V. cana*, however unlikely, would therefore not be sufficient.

It is now certain that Blanford's Fox occur throughout the mountainous regions of the United Arab Emirates and although classified as vulnerable they may be more abundant than first suspected. The use of poisons to eradicate "problem animals" such as caracal, that prey on domestic stock, should be addressed as Blanford's Fox inadvertently fall victim when scavenging, as evident on a few occasions. Further baseline surveys and thorough research on the distribution, ecology and reproduction are needed for a better understanding of this Fox. We would like to emulate GEFEN et al. (1993) in urging those responsible for the planning of protected areas in the UAE to consider *V. cana* in selecting mountainous desert areas for conservation.

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