Abstract

Pellets of tawny owls (Strix aluco) were collected on roadsides in the Central Mountain Range at elevations of 1,479m to 2,650m in the central Taiwan, 2000 and 2005. For 180 pellets collected, the sizes were 5.87±1.40 (mean±SE) cm in length, 3.42±0.72 cm in width, and 2.62±0.42 cm in depth. A total of 544 prey items were identified from the pellets at 3.02±1.77 per pellet. They were composed of seven taxa of mammals (Apodemus semotus, Eothenomys melanogaster, Niviventer culturatus, Crocidura horsfieldi, Sciuridae, Tamiops maritimus, Belomys pearsoni) and six taxa of birds (Paridae, Timaliidae, Sylviidae, Passeriformes, Strigiformes, Accipiter sp.). In terms of the number of the preys, Apodemus semotus was most abundant, composing 43.9% of the total, and then followed by Paridae (25.4%) and N. culturatus (10.8%). In terms of biomass, A. semotus contributed 35.1% and N. culturatus was 30.7%. These two species were the most important diet, contributing 60 to 74.2% of the total biomass of the preys in the pellets of the owl. The average number of prey items were 4.28±1.90 per pellet and 3.58±2.14 per pellet in spring and winter, significant higher than 2.48±1.41 and 2.40±1.38 in summer and fall (Tukey test, p<0.05). The diet composition also differed among seasons; mammals were major food sources in summer and fall, while birds became more important in spring and winter.

Key words: Tawny owl, Strix aluco, diet, pellets, Taiwan

緒 言

灰林鵑(Strix aluco)屬鵑形目(Strigiformes)、鵑科(Strigidae)、鵑屬(Strix)貓頭鷹。其翼長 28-30 cm，尾長約 12 cm，體長大約 40-46 cm，重量約 350g (del Hoyo et al. 1999)，根據 König et al. (1999) “A guide to the owls of the world” 一書的分類標準，為中型的貓頭鷹。灰林鵑分布相當廣泛，主要在歐亞及北非，歐洲東部爲其出現的最西邊，往南到非洲北部，往北到俄羅斯，東邊則一直到中國東南沿海，台灣爲其世界分布的東南邊陲(Burton 1973; Vouls 1988; del Hoyo et al. 1999; König et al. 1999)。國外有關灰林鵑的研究報告相當多，如食性、繁殖、幼雛擴散、存活情形等(Southern 1954; Southern and Lowe 1968; Gosczynski 1981; Mikkola 1983; Kirk 1992; Jedrzejewski et al. 1994; Redpath 1995; Jedrzejewski et al. 1996; Overskaug and Bolstad 1999; Sasvári et al. 2000; Sunde et al. 2003; Balciauskiene 2005; Balciauskiene