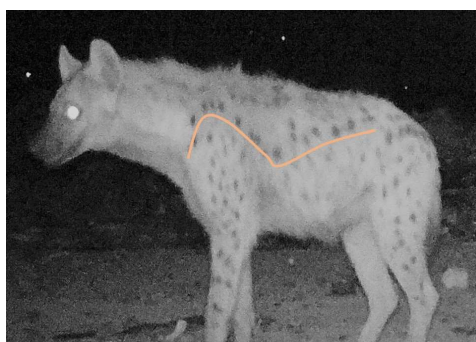


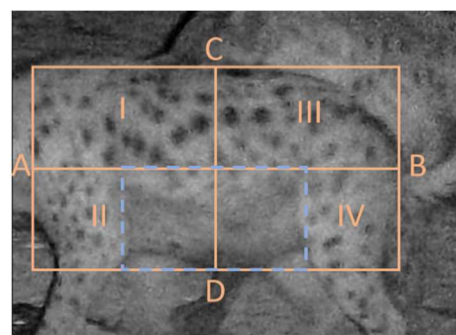
Dichotomous ID key for hyenas at the Mekelle city waste dump

Key for the identification of spot patterns in the fur of spotted hyenas (*Crocuta crocuta*). The path through the key is noted for each individual (e.g. 1* 2* 3 4 5*), sorting it into a group with other individuals that share this trait combination (in this example: 1* 2* 3 4 5* = group 11).

- 1 clearly visibly a cub (size, baby-like anatomy, dark fur underneath the spots).....
- 1* adult or subadult, in any case not clearly a cub.....
- 2 the spots on the side are very faint, not intensely black.....
- 2* spots on the side are clearly visible, black coloured
- 3 the individual has a distinct "second row"¹ along the side
- 3* the individual doesn't show a "second row"
- 4 there are more than 15 spots in the 1st quadrant² (spots on the borders are counted in each quadrant they are in)
- 4* less or equal to 15 spots in the 1st quadrant.....
- 5 the individual has spots in the rectangle created between the legs and underneath the centre line (see Figure B).....
- 5* no spots in the rectangle created between the legs and underneath the centre line.....



A) this individual has a "second row" leading from the shoulder to the hindquarters



B) a rectangle is drawn on the hyena's flank and divided into four quadrants. The blue dashed line shows the rectangle mentioned in question 5

¹ the "second row" is a line of spots that starts on the shoulder and continues along the flank of the animal, often with an angular depression on the shoulder (Figure A). It can come with the absence of further spots on the flank, or be just one of the patterns of the spots.

² a rectangle divided into four equal quadrants is drawn onto the hyena's flank as indicated in Figure B: from the point where the chest bends into the neck (A) to a tangent on the hindquarters (B), and from the back (C) to a tangent on the belly (D). The quadrants are numbered 1 to 4 starting on the withers, via the lower shoulder and the top of the hindquarters down to the hind legs.