

EMERGING ZONOTIC INFECTIONS: SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL  
PATTERNS IN RESERVOIR RODENT SPECIES IN  
THE PROVINCE OF TRENTO

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The rodent species *Apodemus flavicollis* (yellow-necked mouse) and *Clethrionomys glareolus* (bank vole), are both widely distributed throughout the forest ecosystems in Trentino, and as reservoirs of zoonotic infections play a central role in the ecology and epidemiology of a series of emerging diseases in Europe. These include tick-borne infections such as Tick-Borne Encephalitis (TBE), Lyme disease (LB) and Human Granulocytic Ehrlichiosis (HGE), and viral diseases including Hantaviruses and Arenaviruses. The prevalence and spatial distribution of the causative pathogens within the reservoirs were assessed by combining cross-sectional serological and molecular studies of the rodent hosts. Longitudinal monitoring was carried out on the species *Apodemus flavicollis* which displayed an inter-annual variation in abundance with two population peaks during the period 2000-2005. The spatial and temporal pattern observed in the prevalence of pathogen infection will be presented and discussed.