

Does digestion rate affect diet selection? A study in *Octodon degus* a generalist herbivorous rodent

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Abstract

Dietary chemistry and an animal digestive physiology should be considered in any explanation of behavioral patterns of food use, as both influence dietary preference. In the degu *Octodon degus* (Molina, 1782), a generalist herbivorous rodent inhabiting central Chile, authors determine the profitability of natural food-plant items by measuring digestive characteristics, such as retention time and assimilation rate while also considering the effects of food chemistry.