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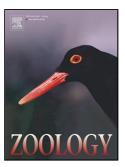
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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Competition effect on Acomys fitness

Fitness effects of interspecific competition between two species of desert rodents

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Highlights

- We examined the interspecific competition between two desert rodents.
- Competition impaired the subordinate species' fitness through reproductive suppression.
- Signs of reduced fitness appeared more clearly in males and young relative to females of the subordinate species.
- Reproductive suppression occurred as a result of direct and/or indirect pathways.
- One plausible indirect pathway is increased use of torpor, induced by the presence of the competing species.

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