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## Stable isotopes of carbon and nitrogen in the study of avian and mammalian trophic ecology

Jeffrey F. Kelly

**Abstract:** Differential fractionation of stable isotopes of carbon during photosynthesis causes  $C_4$  plants and  $C_3$  plants to have distinct carbon-isotope signatures. In addition, marine  $C_3$  plants have stable-isotope ratios of carbon that are intermediate between  $C_4$  and terrestrial  $C_3$  plants. The direct incorporation of the carbon-isotope ratio ( $^{13}C/^{12}C$ ) of plants into consumers' tissues makes this ratio useful in studies of animal ecology. The heavy isotope of nitrogen ( $^{15}N$ ) is preferentially incorporated into the tissues of the consumer from the diet, which results in a systematic enrichment in nitrogen-isotope ratio ( $^{15}N/^{14}N$ ) with each trophic level. Consequently, stable isotopes of nitrogen have been used primarily to assess position in food chains. The literature pertaining to the use of stable isotopes of carbon and nitrogen in animal trophic ecology was reviewed. Data from 102 studies that reported stable-isotope ratios of carbon and (or) nitrogen of wild birds and (or) mammals were compiled and analyzed relative to diet, latitude, body size, and habitat moisture. These analyses supported the predicted relationships among trophic groups. Carbon-isotope ratios differed among species that relied on  $C_3$ ,  $C_4$ , and marine food chains. Likewise, nitrogen-isotope ratios were enriched in terrestrial carnivorous mammals relative to terrestrial herbivorous mammals. Also, marine carnivores that ate vertebrates had nitrogen-isotope ratios that were enriched over the ratios of those that ate invertebrates. Data from the literature also indicated that (i) the carbon-isotope ratio of carnivore bone collagen was inversely related to latitude, which was likely the result of an inverse relationship between the proportion of carbon in the food chain that was fixed by  $C_4$  plants and latitude; (ii) seabirds and marine mammals from northern oceans had higher nitrogen-isotope ratios than those from southern oceans; (iii) the nitrogen-isotope ratios of terrestrial mammals that used xeric habitats were higher than the ratios of those that used mesic habitats, indicating that water stress can have important effects on the nitrogen-isotope ratio; (iv) there was no relationship between body mass and nitrogen-isotope ratio for either bone collagen or muscle of carnivores; and (v) there was linear covariation between stable-isotope ratios of carbon and nitrogen in marine food chains (but not in terrestrial  $C_3$  or  $C_4$  food chains), which is likely a product of increases in carbon-isotope ratio with trophic level in marine food chains. Differences in stable-isotope composition among trophic groups were detected despite variation attributable to geographic location, climate, and analytical techniques, indicating that these effects are large and pervasive. Consequently, as knowledge of the distribution of stable isotopes of carbon and nitrogen increases, they will probably become an increasingly important tool in the study of avian and mammalian trophic ecology.

**Résumé :** Le fractionnement différentiel des isotopes stables de carbone durant la photosynthèse fait que les plantes  $C_4$  et les plantes  $C_3$  ont des signatures d'isotopes de carbone différentes. En outre, chez les plantes  $C_3$  marines, le rapport entre les isotopes stables de carbone est intermédiaire entre celui des plantes  $C_4$  et celui des plantes  $C_3$  terrestres. L'intégration directe du rapport des isotopes de carbone ( $^{13}C/^{12}C$ ) des plantes consommées dans les tissus du consommateur rend ce rapport très utile en écologie animale. L'isotope lourd de l'azote ( $^{15}N$ ) est l'isotope de prédilection et il est absorbé dans les aliments pour être incorporé dans les tissus du consommateur, ce qui résulte en un enrichissement systématique du rapport entre les isotopes d'azote ( $^{15}N/^{14}N$ ) à chaque niveau de la chaîne alimentaire. Conséquemment, des isotopes stables d'azote ont été utilisés surtout pour évaluer les positions dans la chaîne alimentaire. La littérature sur l'utilisation des isotopes stables de carbone ou d'azote en écologie animale trophique a été révisée. Les données de 102 études sur les rapports entre les isotopes stables de carbone et (ou) d'azote ont été compilées pour des oiseaux et (ou) des mammifères sauvages et examinées en fonction du régime alimentaire, de la latitude, de la taille du corps et de l'humidité dans l'habitat. Les analyses ont permis de confirmer les hypothèses sur les relations entre les groupes trophiques. Les rapports entre les isotopes de carbone diffèrent chez les espèces qui ont recours aux isotopes  $C_3$  et  $C_4$  ou qui se nourrissent à même la chaîne alimentaire marine. De même, les rapports entre les isotopes d'azote sont enrichis chez les mammifères carnivores terrestres par comparaison aux herbivores. De plus, chez les carnivores marins qui consomment des vertébrés, les rapports entre les isotopes d'azote sont plus élevés que chez ceux qui consomment des

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invertébrés. Les données de la littérature indiquent également que (i) le rapport entre les isotopes de carbone dans le collagène osseux des carnivores est en relation inverse avec la latitude, probablement parce qu'il existe une relation inverse entre la proportion de carbone dans la chaîne alimentaire fixée par les plantes  $C_4$  et la latitude, (ii) les oiseaux et les mammifères marins des mers nordiques ont des rapports entre les isotopes d'azote élevés comparativement à ceux des mers australes, (iii) les rapports entre les isotopes d'azote des mammifères terrestres des milieux secs sont plus élevés que ceux des mammifères de milieux mésiques, ce qui indique que le stress hydrique peut avoir des effets importants sur le rapport entre les isotopes d'azote, (iv) il n'y a pas de corrélation entre la masse totale et le rapport entre les isotopes d'azote, ni dans le collagène des os, ni dans les muscles des carnivores, (v) il y a une covariation linéaire entre les rapports des isotopes de carbone et d'azote dans les chaînes alimentaires marines (mais pas dans les chaînes terrestres du  $C_3$  ou du  $C_4$ ), ce qui résulte probablement de l'augmentation des rapports entre les isotopes de carbone à mesure qu'augmente le niveau trophique. Des différences dans la composition des isotopes stables prévalent chez les différents groupes trophiques et elles sont apparentes en dépit de la variation attribuable au lieu géographique, au climat et aux techniques d'analyse, ce qui indique qu'il s'agit d'effets dominants, à grande échelle. Conséquemment, à mesure que nous acquérons des informations sur les isotopes stables de carbone et d'azote, ceux-ci sont susceptibles de devenir des outils de plus en plus importants dans l'étude de l'écologie trophique des oiseaux et des mammifères.

[Traduit par la Rédaction]

## Introduction

Stable isotopes of carbon ( $^{13}C/^{12}C$ ) and nitrogen ( $^{15}N/^{14}N$ ) have a broad array of applications in ecology (Peterson and Fry 1987; Rundel et al. 1989; Lajtha and Michener 1994), one of which is the investigation of the trophic ecology of wild birds and mammals. Stable isotopes of carbon and nitrogen have been used to study animal ecology since the late 1970s, and their use in studies of wild birds and mammals has grown rapidly (Fig. 1).

In the 1970s and 1980s, samples of animal tissues had to be combusted to gas ( $CO_2$  for stable-isotope ratios of carbon and  $N_2$  for those of nitrogen), often through a series of complex and labor-intensive procedures. After combustion, the stable-isotope ratios of the gases were measured with a dual-inlet gas isotope ratio mass spectrometer, as they are today. Because sample processing was labor-intensive and technically difficult, researchers were more limited in the number of samples they could process. This limitation on sample size probably curtailed some investigations of the subtle spatial and temporal variation that characterizes much of ecology. In 1988, a system that made it possible to obtain carbon- and nitrogen-isotope ratios from a large number of samples with minimal sample preparation became available commercially (Brand 1996). This system links a combustion furnace with a gas chromatograph interfaced with a dual-inlet gas isotope ratio mass spectrometer (Brand 1996). The important aspects of this and other advances for ecologists are that (i) fully automated measurement of both carbon- and nitrogen-isotope ratios from the same sample has become routine, (ii) the processing of up to 80 samples per day has become routine (Boutton 1991), and (iii) the cost of analysis has decreased.

This technical advance would be of little importance for ecologists if data on carbon- and nitrogen-isotope ratios did not provide unique information. The difficulty of getting unbiased and complete observations of foraging behavior of wild birds and mammals remains a primary problem in traditional diet studies. In many environments (e.g., fresh water, ocean, dense vegetation), it can be impossible to determine what food is being consumed through direct observation. Data obtained from both foraging observations and stomach contents have inherent biases, such as differential digestibility of prey items, that are difficult to overcome. Moreover,

the complex spatial, temporal, and behavioral variation in trophic systems makes linking foraging behavior to prey populations difficult (Wiens 1984; Morrison et al. 1990; Kelly 1996). Augmenting traditional dietary information with stable-isotope data can improve understanding of the trophic ecology of birds and mammals in many instances. For these reasons, the use of stable-isotope ratios of carbon and nitrogen for understanding avian and mammalian trophic ecology has continued to grow (Fig. 1).

This review has two objectives: first, to describe what is known about the natural distributions of stable isotopes of carbon and nitrogen as they pertain to the trophic ecology of birds and mammals and, second, to use data compiled from the literature to quantify these patterns.

## Units of measure and standards

The ratio of stable isotopes is expressed most often in delta ( $\delta$ ) notation:

$$[1] \quad \delta = ((R_{\text{sample}}/R_{\text{standard}}) - 1) \times 1000$$

where  $\delta$  is the isotope ratio of the sample relative to a standard.  $R_{\text{sample}}$  and  $R_{\text{standard}}$  are the fractions of heavy to light isotopes in the sample and standard, respectively. One is subtracted from the  $R_{\text{sample}}/R_{\text{standard}}$  fraction so that samples with a lower ratio of heavy isotopes than the standard have a negative value and those with higher ratios of heavy isotopes than the standard have a positive value. This number is then multiplied by 1000 so that the  $\delta$  notation is in units of parts per thousand (‰), often referred to as "per mil notation." For carbon, the international standard is the Peedee Belemnite (PDB) marine fossil limestone formation from South Carolina (Craig 1957). The standard for nitrogen is atmospheric nitrogen (Ehleringer and Rundel 1989). Most plant and animal tissues have a negative value of  $\delta^{13}C$  and a positive value of  $\delta^{15}N$ . That is, they have a lower  $^{13}C/^{12}C$  ratio than PDB and a higher  $^{15}N/^{14}N$  ratio than atmospheric nitrogen.

## Literature compilation and description

Stable-isotope ratios of carbon or nitrogen for wild birds or mammals were sought for statistical analysis. Key Words were used to search the BIOSIS electronic data base (1986–1997) and the Zoological Record (1993–1997). Recent stud-

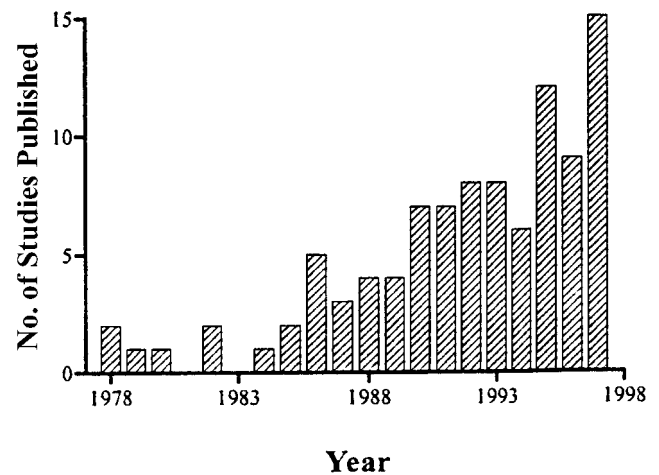
**Table 1.** The number of species in each environment and diet category for which data on  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values in bone collagen and muscle tissue were found.

Environment	Diet	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ value		$\delta^{15}\text{N}$ value		$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ – $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ pairs	
		Bone	Muscle	Bone	Muscle	Bone	Muscle
<b>Mammals</b>							
Terrestrial	C <sub>3</sub> plant	35	4	26	3	25	0
	C <sub>4</sub> plant	18	2	9	0	9	0
	Invertebrate	4	3	4	0	4	0
	Vertebrate	16	1	14	1	14	0
	Omnivorous	4	0	4	0	4	0
Marine	Herbivorous	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Invertebrate	8	8	8	11	8	7
	Vertebrate	11	10	10	12	9	10
<b>Birds</b>							
Terrestrial	C <sub>3</sub> plant	2	3	1	2	1	2
	Invertebrate	1	6	1	2	1	2
	Vertebrate	3	1	3	0	3	0
Marine	Invertebrate	3	9	9	14	2	8
	Vertebrate	8	15	16	28	7	13
Grand total		114	62	105	73	87	42

ies were reviewed to generate the following keywords for the literature search: bird, mammal, stable isotope, stable carbon, stable nitrogen, carbon-13, nitrogen-15,  $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $^{15}\text{N}$ ,  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ ,  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ , and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ . Because the focus of this review was wild birds and mammals, studies of rats (*Rattus rattus*) and pigs (*Sus scrofa*), which commonly were medical laboratory studies of domesticated animals, were not included. The only laboratory studies retained in the data set were those of species that occur primarily in the wild. References cited in each of these studies were reviewed to find any additional studies missed in the previous search steps. Thus, the vast majority of published studies are included. These procedures produced 102 studies of carbon- and (or) nitrogen-isotope ratios in birds and (or) mammals (Appendix, Table A1).

Of the 102 studies included in the review, 60 reported stable-isotope ratios of carbon from mammals, while 41 reported stable-isotope ratios of carbon from birds (Appendix, Table A1). Thirty-five studies reported stable-isotope ratios of nitrogen for mammals, while 32 studies reported stable-isotope ratios of nitrogen for birds. Over half the studies (53) reported values for both carbon and nitrogen. Of the 37 studies that dealt primarily with birds, 25 were concerned with a single order. Most of the 12 studies that did not concentrate on a single order dealt with seabirds. Fifty-six studies focused on mammals and 9 survey or food-web studies dealt with both birds and mammals.

Most (91) of the 102 studies reported descriptive field data and 12 reported experimental data; 3 studies reported combinations of experimental and descriptive data from the field and laboratory (Appendix, Table A1). Of the experiments, laboratory data were reported for 11 and field data for 3; the majority of studies were concerned with diet (59) or food-web structure (10). The primary concern of a surprisingly large number of studies (11) was the use of isotope data for tracking the locations of animals. Most frequently, the studies of birds (21) were done in North America. Far

**Fig. 1.** Histogram of the number of studies in which stable isotopes of carbon and nitrogen were used to investigate the trophic ecology of wild birds and (or) mammals.

more studies of mammals were done in North America (26) and Africa (18) than on other continents.

Particularly evident was the lack of data on passerine birds and rodents. These orders are the most speciose in their respective classes, yet they provide a small fraction of the data reported. The lack of data on these groups is perhaps related to their small body size. There seems to be a clear bias toward conducting isotope research on large-bodied birds and mammals. Most data were from either terrestrial mammalian herbivores or marine carnivores. Data available from terrestrial mammals were heavily skewed toward  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values of bone collagen, whereas data from avian and mammalian marine carnivores were slightly skewed toward  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values of muscle (Table 1).

Delta  $^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values for wild birds or mammals that were feeding under natural conditions were compiled from as many of these studies as possible. When more than one

measurement was available for a species, only the mean of the largest sample from a single study was used. Some analyses required only  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  or  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values, while others required paired  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values from the same organism. For each analysis, data from the study with the largest applicable sample size were used. That is, the  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ , and paired values used for a given species may each come from different studies (Appendix, Table A2).

Diets could have been classified simply by plotting the isotope data and then using a clustering algorithm to create groupings. Without a priori information on diet, however, this approach would not have provided a strong test of the ability of isotopes to distinguish among animals from different trophic groups. In contrast, using an independent data source to classify the diets of animals prior to examining the patterns in isotope ratios provides a rigorous test of the ability of stable isotopes to distinguish among trophic groups. For a priori diet classifications, Nowak (1991) and Ehrlich et al. (1988) were used for mammals and birds, respectively. Species were divided into herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores. Only species that eat both plant and animal tissues were considered omnivores. Herbivores were further categorized as eating  $\text{C}_3$  plants or  $\text{C}_4$  plants ( $\text{C}_3$  plants use the enzyme Rubisco (RuBP) to fix  $\text{CO}_2$  as part of the Calvin cycle.  $\text{C}_4$  plants fix  $\text{CO}_2$  with phosphoenolpyruvate (PEP) carboxylase prior to its entry into the Calvin cycle), and carnivores that eat primarily vertebrates were distinguished from those that eat primarily invertebrates. The food chain of each species was categorized as depending on  $\text{C}_3$ ,  $\text{C}_4$ , or marine plants (Appendix, Table A2). Scientific names not provided in the text are included in Table A2.

The moistness of a species' habitat, the species' body size, and the latitude where the sample was collected were estimated. All estimates were obtained without reference to the isotope data. Habitat descriptions provided in the literature and in Nowak (1991) were used to categorize each terrestrial mammal's habitat as either mesic or xeric. Any species whose habitat was known to be restricted in access to permanent fresh water was categorized as mesic. For some species, no habitat description that allowed its classification as either xeric or mesic was found. For as many samples as possible, latitude was assigned on the basis of study-site descriptions. To estimate body mass, Dunning (1993) was used for birds and Silva and Downing (1995) for mammals (Appendix, Table A2).

Only analyses of bone collagen and muscle are presented, because they were the only tissues commonly reported in the literature for both birds and mammals (Table 1). Of the measurements reported on bone and muscle tissues,  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values for bone collagen were most common, whereas  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values for muscle tissue, particularly from terrestrial mammals, were comparatively rare. Therefore, most analyses presented compare results for bone and muscle in marine birds and mammals but only report results for bone in terrestrial mammals.

Whether lipids were extracted prior to isotope analyses was also recorded. If there was any mention of treatment with ether, chloroform, sodium hydroxide, or a Soxhlet apparatus, samples were categorized as lipid-extracted. If lipid extraction was not mentioned or implied, samples were considered to have been untreated.

## Statistical analyses

When the independent variables were categorical, one-way analyses of variance (ANOVAs) were used to detect differences among categories. When ANOVAs indicated significant variation ( $P < 0.05$ ) and there were more than two categories, least-significant-difference post-hoc tests were used. When the independent variable was continuous, linear regression analyses were employed. Residuals of all analyses were examined for heteroscedasticity, and Kolmogorov–Smirnov tests for normality were used. An  $\alpha$  level of 0.05 was used to evaluate the significance of all tests.

## Use of stable isotopes of carbon and nitrogen as dietary tracers

### Carbon

#### History

Ehleringer and Rundel (1989) attribute the first use of stable isotopes of carbon in natural materials to Neir and Gulbransen (1939). Most natural materials have  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values between 0 and  $-110\text{‰}$ , although most components of terrestrial, marine, and freshwater ecosystems have  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values between 0 and  $-40\text{‰}$  (Boutton 1991). Studies of the tissues of living organisms began in the early 1950s (Ehleringer and Rundel 1989). The first hint of the utility of carbon isotopes for the study of trophic ecology came when the difference in the isotope signatures of  $\text{C}_3$  and  $\text{C}_4$  plants was discovered (Bender 1971; Smith and Epstein 1971). This utility is derived from two properties: first, some sources of dietary carbon have distinct carbon-isotope signatures, and second, the isotope signature of a food is incorporated into the consumer's tissues.

#### Photosynthesis creates distinct carbon-isotope signatures

With regard to animal ecology, the primary process that creates sources with identifiable carbon-isotope signatures is photosynthesis. Stable isotopes of carbon are used most often to distinguish carbon fixed by terrestrial  $\text{C}_3$  plants from that fixed by  $\text{C}_4$  plants or marine  $\text{C}_3$  plants. Distinguishing between  $\text{C}_4$  plants and plants that use a third photosynthetic pathway, crassulacean acid metabolism (CAM), is difficult with carbon isotopes only, but can be done if they are used in combination with hydrogen isotopes (Sternberg 1989; Ehleringer 1991; Lajtha and Marshall 1994). Because CAM plants are relatively sparsely distributed and have not received much attention relative to animal ecology (but see Fleming et al. 1993), they are not discussed further here.

Carbon fixed by terrestrial  $\text{C}_3$  plants ( $\delta^{13}\text{C} = -27\text{‰}$ , range =  $-35$  to  $-21\text{‰}$ ) can be distinguished from that fixed by  $\text{C}_4$  plants ( $\delta^{13}\text{C} = -13\text{‰}$ , range =  $-14$  to  $-10\text{‰}$ ), because it contains relatively few  $^{13}\text{C}$  isotopes (Boutton 1991; Ehleringer 1991). This difference is due to discrimination against  $^{13}\text{C}$  isotopes by the primary  $\text{CO}_2$ -fixing enzyme (RuBP) of  $\text{C}_3$  plants. In  $\text{C}_4$  plants, the primary enzyme for  $\text{CO}_2$  fixation (PEP carboxylase) does not discriminate against  $^{13}\text{C}$  as strongly as that of  $\text{C}_3$  plants (O'Leary 1981, 1988; Farquhar et al. 1989). While marine phytoplankton uses the  $\text{C}_3$  photosynthetic pathway, its carbon-isotope signature is significantly heavier ( $-22\text{‰}$ ) than that of terrestrial  $\text{C}_3$  plants. There is some uncertainty as to the cause of this difference, but potential explanations include the use of bi-



carbonate as a carbon source in marine systems and the slower diffusion of CO<sub>2</sub> in water, which might counteract enzymatic discrimination (O'Leary 1988; Boutton 1991). Slow diffusion of CO<sub>2</sub> has been shown to cause similarly high δ<sup>13</sup>C values in freshwater C<sub>3</sub> plants in static environments (Raven 1987). Because phytoplankton has lighter δ<sup>13</sup>C values than many inshore plants (e.g., seagrasses, average δ<sup>13</sup>C = -10‰, range = -15 to -3‰), inshore carbon sources can sometimes be distinguished from pelagic sources (Fry 1983; Fry and Sherr 1989; Boutton 1991; Hobson et al. 1994; Jarman et al. 1997).

#### *Carbon-isotope ratios of consumers' tissues*

Given that foods can vary considerably in their carbon-isotope signatures, the utility of these isotopes for trophic studies hinges on the relationship between the isotope composition of a consumer's diet and that of its tissues. DeNiro and Epstein (1978a) were the first to provide evidence that the carbon-isotope composition of a consumer was a direct reflection of its diet. They documented this pattern by feeding eight species of invertebrates and mice (*Mus musculus*) diets of known composition and then measuring the isotope composition of their tissues. DeNiro and Epstein (1978a) also demonstrated that whole bodies of consumers were enriched in <sup>13</sup>C only slightly over their diet (i.e., the diet-consumer fractionation of carbon isotopes was less than 2‰). Finally, they reported that the difference in the carbon-isotope values between individual tissues and diet depended on both the diet and the tissue type.

Ensuing studies have confirmed and refined these general patterns. The results of a variety of experiments have corroborated the primary conclusion that the carbon-isotope composition of birds (von Schirnding et al. 1982; Mizutani et al. 1991, 1992; Hobson and Clark 1992a, 1992b, 1993; Hobson et al. 1993; Hobson 1995) and mammals (Tieszen et al. 1983; Hobson et al. 1996; Hilderbrand et al. 1996) is a direct reflection of whether they depend on C<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>4</sub>, or marine food chains.

Additional studies have verified Epstein and DeNiro's (1978a) finding that enrichment in δ<sup>13</sup>C values of whole-body samples relative to diet is slight (Haines and Montague 1979; Rau and Anderson 1981). The use of biopsy techniques, coupled with the large body size of most birds and mammals, makes whole-body samples for these taxa unusual; rather, data usually pertain to specific tissues. Experimental studies on mammals indicated that the δ<sup>13</sup>C values of most tissues were within 5‰ of the diet (DeNiro and Epstein 1981; Tieszen et al. 1983; Tieszen and Boutton 1989; Hobson et al. 1996). In birds, experimental studies indicated that most tissues were enriched by 1–6‰ over the diet (e.g., Mizutani et al. 1991, 1992; Hobson and Clark 1992b). While enrichment of specific tissues of birds and mammals varied among studies, there were a few general patterns: (i) lipids tended to be highly depleted in <sup>13</sup>C, (ii) bone collagen and integument (skin, hair, and feathers) tended to be among the most enriched tissues in both birds and mammals, and (iii) there was only slight (1–2‰) enrichment of muscle tissue and whole-body samples over the diet (DeNiro and Epstein 1978a; Tieszen et al. 1983; Tieszen and Boutton 1989; Gearing 1991; Mizutani et al. 1991, 1992; Hobson and Clark 1992b; Hilderbrand et al. 1996; Hobson et al. 1996).

Field studies of mammals have indicated that bone collagen is enriched by 4–6‰ over local vegetation (e.g., van der Merwe 1982; Ambrose 1993). In these cases, however, the actual composition of the diets was unknown. In other field studies that have attempted to use δ<sup>13</sup>C values to construct avian and mammalian food webs, it has been found that carbon is generally only slightly enriched (1–2‰) with each trophic step (Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984; Ambrose and DeNiro 1986; Hobson and Welch 1992; Hobson et al. 1994). Systematic enrichment in δ<sup>13</sup>C values in marine food chains has been reported (Rau et al. 1983; Boutton 1991). Most studies, however, indicated that in marine environments, <sup>13</sup>C enrichment occurred at low trophic levels but not among vertebrate consumers (Rau et al. 1983; Wada et al. 1987; Fry 1988; Hobson and Welch 1992; Hobson 1993; Hobson et al. 1994).

The minor stepwise trophic enrichment of the carbon-isotope ratio that has been documented among vertebrate consumers limits its use in assessing trophic level. However, this characteristic enhances the utility of carbon-isotope ratios for tracking carbon sources through a food chain (Peterson and Fry 1987; Michener and Schell 1994). Specifically, because there is little enrichment with increase in trophic level, the carbon-isotope signature of secondary and tertiary consumers should reflect the source of carbon (C<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>4</sub>, or marine plants) at the base of their food chain. For example, Schoeninger and DeNiro (1984) demonstrated that for terrestrial and marine carnivores, carbon-isotope signatures were indistinguishable from those of their primary prey. Furthermore, Ambrose and DeNiro (1986) showed that among terrestrial species, carbon-isotope signatures can indicate whether carnivores had fed on herbivores that had eaten primarily C<sub>3</sub> or C<sub>4</sub> plants.

#### *Testing trophic patterns with carbon-isotope data from field studies*

The utility of δ<sup>13</sup>C values for identifying the carbon sources used by consumers is most evident from the numerous field studies in which they have been used to distinguish C<sub>3</sub> from C<sub>4</sub> food chains (Teeri and Schoeller 1979; Ambrose and DeNiro 1986; Alisauskas and Hobson 1993; Fleming et al. 1993; Herrera et al. 1993; MacFadden and Cerling 1994; MacFadden 1997; Alisauskas et al. 1998) or between terrestrial (presumed C<sub>3</sub>) and marine food chains (Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984; Hobson 1987, 1990; Mizutani et al. 1990; Hobson and Sealy 1991; Angerbjorn et al. 1994; Hilderbrand et al. 1996; Ben-David et al. 1997a, 1997b; Bearhop et al. 1999). Data compiled from such studies indicate that δ<sup>13</sup>C values of bone collagen clearly distinguished between terrestrial mammalian herbivores that relied primarily on C<sub>3</sub> plants and those that relied primarily on C<sub>4</sub> plants (Table 2). Similarly, the δ<sup>13</sup>C values of bone collagen varied significantly among carnivores that relied on C<sub>4</sub>, C<sub>3</sub>, and marine trophic chains. Bone from species that relied on C<sub>4</sub> food chains was enriched by 8–10‰ over bone from species that relied on C<sub>3</sub> food chains. The δ<sup>13</sup>C values of carnivorous marine mammals were intermediate between those of C<sub>3</sub> and C<sub>4</sub> food chains; the δ<sup>13</sup>C values of marine species were significantly heavier (6.3‰) than those of carnivores in C<sub>3</sub> food chains (Table 2). Similarly, the δ<sup>13</sup>C values of marine birds were significantly enriched over those of birds from terres-

**Table 2.** Delta<sup>13</sup>C values of birds and mammals by trophic group.

	Trophic group	Tissue	Carbon source			F	P
			C <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>4</sub>	Marine		
Mammals	Herbivore	Bone	-18.3±4.2	-10.1±3.8		48.9	<0.001
	Carnivore	Bone	-19.8±2.1 <sup>a</sup>	-9.3±3.1 <sup>a</sup>	-13.5±1.7 <sup>a</sup>	62.6	<0.001
Birds	Carnivore	Bone	-21.3±3.9		-16.1±2.4	10.2	<0.007
	Carnivore	Muscle	-23.3±4.8		-18.8±2.2	12.0	<0.001

**Note:** Values are given as the mean ± SD. Sample sizes are provided in Table 1.

<sup>a</sup>Least-significant-difference post-hoc tests indicate that this value differs significantly from all other values in this row.

trial C<sub>3</sub> food chains for both bone (5.2‰) and muscle tissue (4.5‰; Table 2).

There was no significant enrichment in δ<sup>13</sup>C values between mammalian herbivores and carnivores in C<sub>3</sub> and C<sub>4</sub> food chains. In fact, carnivores in C<sub>3</sub> food chains were, on average, depleted in <sup>13</sup>C relative to herbivores by 1.5‰ (Table 2). In C<sub>4</sub> trophic chains, carnivores were enriched by 0.8‰ relative to herbivores (Table 2). These slight differences support the findings of numerous studies: there is little enrichment in δ<sup>13</sup>C values with increase in trophic level, at least in terrestrial mammals.

#### Large-scale gradients in carbon-isotope ratios

There are a number of well-known biogeographic patterns in C<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>4</sub>, and marine plants that create gradients in δ<sup>13</sup>C values over large scales. Delta<sup>13</sup>C values of C<sub>3</sub> terrestrial plants have been shown to be inversely correlated with latitude (Korner et al. 1991). In addition, the prevalence of C<sub>4</sub> plants declines with increasing latitude and altitude (Teeri and Stowe 1976; Tieszen et al. 1979). Furthermore, a latitudinal decline in δ<sup>13</sup>C values has been documented in marine plankton (Sackett et al. 1965; Rau et al. 1982; Goericke et al. 1994). Some studies have shown patterns which suggest a latitudinal gradient in the δ<sup>13</sup>C values of consumers' tissues and authors have speculated that this pattern might be related to the latitudinal gradients in δ<sup>13</sup>C values of C<sub>3</sub> plants, in the proportion of C<sub>3</sub> to C<sub>4</sub> plants, and in δ<sup>13</sup>C values of marine phytoplankton (Rau et al. 1982; Chamberlain et al. 1997).

Data compiled for this review also demonstrate that δ<sup>13</sup>C values of bone collagen of carnivorous marine mammals, carnivorous terrestrial mammals, and carnivorous seabirds track these latitudinal declines in δ<sup>13</sup>C values (Figs. 2a–2c). Surprisingly, this pattern was not found in the bone collagen of terrestrial herbivores ( $R^2 = 0.02$ ,  $F_{[1,46]} = 1.7$ ,  $P = 0.19$ ) or when the herbivores were divided into those that ate C<sub>3</sub> plants and those that ate C<sub>4</sub> plants (Fig. 2d). Intraspecific patterns in two herbivores for which samples were reasonably large were also examined. African elephants, *Loxodonta africana*, showed a decrease in δ<sup>13</sup>C values with latitude, while there was no significant pattern among white-tailed deer, *Odocoileus virginianus* (Figs. 2e and 2f). Neither mammalian ( $R^2 = 0.18$ ,  $F_{[1,15]} = 3.3$ ,  $P = 0.09$ ) nor avian ( $R^2 = 0.05$ ,  $F_{[1,22]} = 1.0$ ,  $P = 0.32$ ) carnivorous marine mammals showed significant variation in δ<sup>13</sup>C values of muscle tissue with latitude. Too few data were available to test for this relationship in other groups.

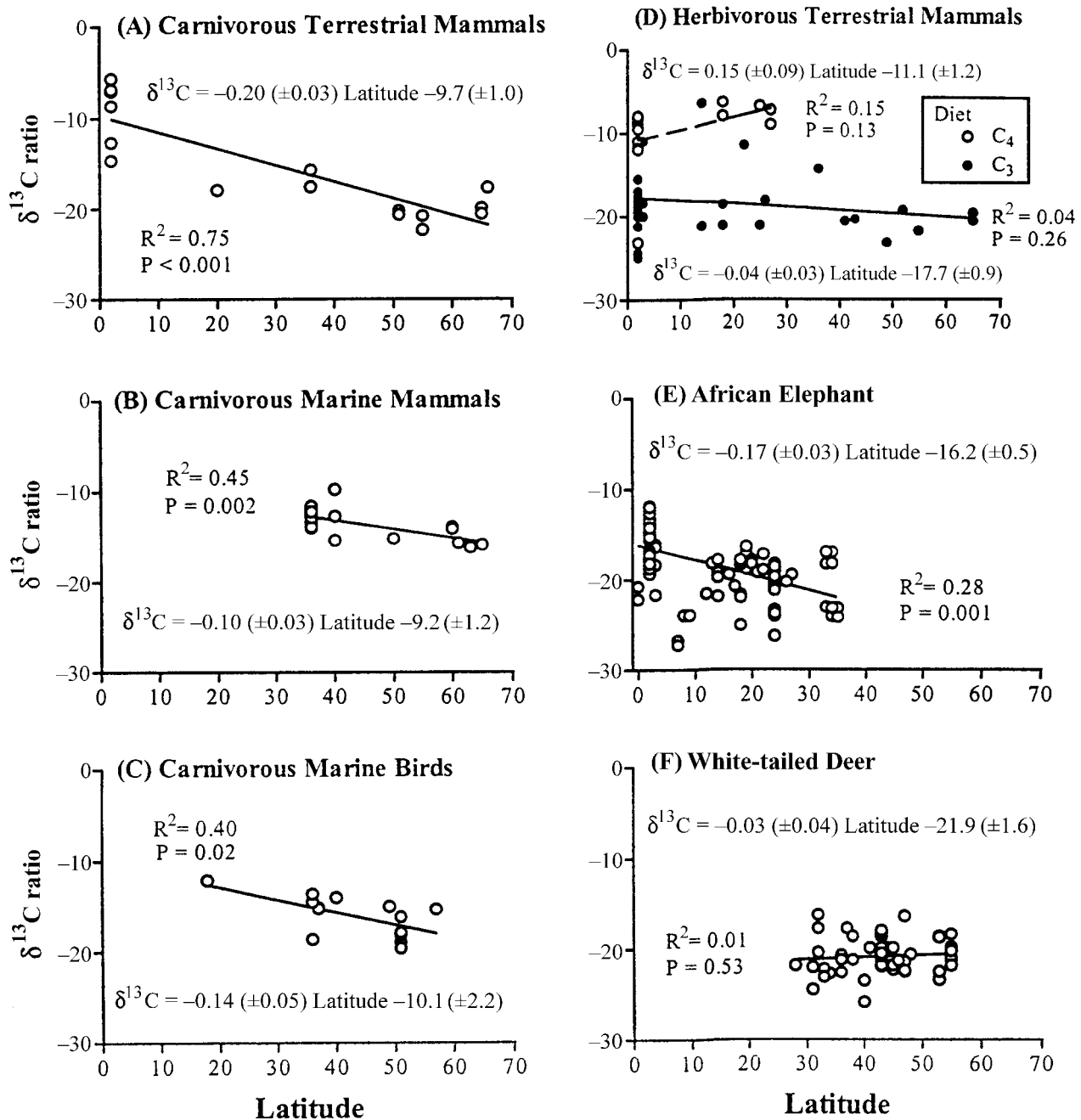
The latitudinal decline in δ<sup>13</sup>C values of carnivorous terrestrial mammal bone is likely a direct result of similar patterns

in plants at the base of the food chain. The lack of similar variation among herbivorous mammals, except African elephants, may seem to contradict the pattern in carnivores, but there is a single explanation that reconciles these patterns. Herbivorous mammals generally restrict their diet to either C<sub>3</sub> or C<sub>4</sub> plants, which is the basis of the ecological classification of browsers and grazers (see below). Within C<sub>3</sub> plants, the latitudinal cline in δ<sup>13</sup>C values is slight relative to the distinction between C<sub>3</sub> and C<sub>4</sub> plants (Korner et al. 1991). Thus, at both the inter- and the intra-specific level, herbivorous mammals with diets restricted to C<sub>3</sub> plants (e.g., white-tailed deer) would be expected to show only a slight latitudinal cline in δ<sup>13</sup>C values. Inter- and intra-specific patterns in those unusual herbivorous mammals that readily eat both C<sub>3</sub> and C<sub>4</sub> plants (e.g., African elephant) should, however, show relatively steep latitudinal clines. In contrast to most herbivorous mammals, carnivorous mammals are unlikely to select prey on the basis of whether they eat primarily C<sub>3</sub> or C<sub>4</sub> plants. Thus, carnivores would seem more likely than herbivores to reflect the average composition of C<sub>3</sub> and C<sub>4</sub> plants at a given locale. In this way, incorporation of prey from both C<sub>3</sub> and C<sub>4</sub> food chains in the diets of carnivores but not in the diets of herbivores may explain the latitudinal patterns evident in Fig. 2. Of course, this speculation should not be accepted without testing. In general, more research is needed to quantify the trophic linkages that maintain latitudinal gradients in δ<sup>13</sup>C values. In particular, large-scale intra- and inter-specific studies that use systematic study designs to investigate the relationships between δ<sup>13</sup>C values, diet, and latitude would be useful.

#### Effects of lipid extraction on carbon-isotope ratios

Differences in the analytical treatment of samples creates some difficulties in comparing δ<sup>13</sup>C values among studies. In particular, lipids are sometimes extracted from tissues prior to stable-isotope analysis. The rationale for lipid extraction is that it is depleted in <sup>13</sup>C relative to other tissues. Lipids are most often removed with a Soxhlet apparatus, using either chloroform or ether, although sodium hydroxide has been shown to be equally effective (Ambrose 1993). The effects of lipid extraction on δ<sup>13</sup>C values are greater in lipid-rich tissues (e.g., muscle, liver) than in lipid-poor tissues (e.g., hair; Tieszen and Boutton 1989). Lipids have δ<sup>13</sup>C values about 6–12‰ greater than bone or muscle (DeNiro and Epstein 1977; McConnaughey and McRoy 1979; Ambrose 1990). Alexander et al. (1996) corrected for the lipid content of muscle by multiplying the percent lipid content of the tissue by the difference between the δ<sup>13</sup>C values of lipid extracted and non-extracted tissues. This approach suggests

**Fig. 2.** Relationships between carbon-isotope ratios and latitude for carnivorous terrestrial mammals (A), carnivorous marine mammals (B), carnivorous marine birds (C), all herbivorous terrestrial mammals (D), African elephants (E), and white-tailed deer (F). The data for white-tailed deer are from Cormie and Schwarcz (1994). Equations for the regression lines are given in the form  $Y = \text{slope} (\pm \text{SE}) X + \text{intercept} (\pm \text{SE})$ . Data from north and south latitudes are pooled in A–D.



that a tissue containing 20% lipid would have a  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  value 2.4‰ greater when lipids were extracted than when the tissue contained lipids ( $0.2 \times -12\text{‰}$ ). This example is probably an extreme case, and real differences will usually be smaller (Alexander et al. 1996).

Among data compiled for this review, the use of lipid extraction appears to be idiosyncratic. For instance, lipids were extracted from nearly all muscle-tissue samples of marine birds (21 of 24), probably because muscle is a lipid-rich tissue. Lipids were extracted from half the muscle samples of marine mammals (10 of 18) and the bone samples of terres-

trial herbivorous mammals (24 of 53), but from few bone samples of marine mammals (2 of 19). These data indicate that only for marine birds is there evidence of a significant difference between lipid-extracted and untreated tissues among studies (Table 3). The difference between lipid-extracted and untreated muscle (1.3‰) and bone (1.4‰) was smaller than the standard deviation for most samples (Table 3). The most powerful test was for differences in the  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values of bone collagen among terrestrial C<sub>3</sub> herbivores. Interestingly, the  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  value of the lipid-extracted bone was lighter than that of untreated bone, although not



**Table 3.** Comparison of  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values of tissues from which lipids were or were not extracted.

	Trophic group	Food chain	Lipid treatment	
			Extracted	Non-extracted
<b>Muscle</b>				
Mammals	Carnivore	Marine ns	-18.0±0.7 (10)	-18.3±0.9 (8)
		C <sub>3</sub>	—	-18.7±1.8 (4)
	Herbivore	C <sub>3</sub>	-28.7 (1)	-13.2±3.3 (3)
		C <sub>4</sub>	—	-13.7±3.5 (2)
Birds	Carnivore	Marine*	-18.7±1.7 (21)	-20.0±5.2 (3)
		C <sub>3</sub>	-18.9 (1)	-24.0±4.8 (6)
	Herbivore	C <sub>3</sub>	-22.9±2.6 (2)	-24.4 (1)
<b>Bone collagen</b>				
Mammals	Carnivore	Marine ns	-16.0±0.4 (2)	-13.±1.5 (17)
		C <sub>3</sub> ns	-20.7±1.5 (9)	-17.1±1.2 (3)
		C <sub>4</sub>	-9.3±3.1 (8)	—
	Herbivore	C <sub>3</sub> ns	-19.4±3.5 (16)	-17.3±4.8 (19)
		C <sub>4</sub> ns	-9.2±1.7 (8)	-10.7±4.8 (10)
		C <sub>3</sub>	-19.7±1.5 (3)	-19.3 (1)
Birds	Carnivore	Marine*	-15.1±0.2 (3)	-16.5±2.7 (8)
		C <sub>3</sub>	—	-21.3±3.9 (4)
	Herbivore	C <sub>3</sub>	—	-21.9±0.9 (2)

**Note:** Values are given as the mean ± SD; numbers in parentheses are sample sizes. Differences between lipid-extracted and non-extracted values were evaluated with *t* tests when samples were adequate; ns, nonsignificant ( $P > 0.05$ ); \*,  $P < 0.05$ .

significantly so ( $F_{[16,19]} = 3.5$ ,  $P = 0.07$ ; Table 3). In fact, average values for extracted tissues were lighter than those for non-extracted tissues in most (5 of 7) groups of mammals examined (Table 3). This pattern likely indicates that for the purpose of making broad comparisons among species, lipid extraction does not create an overwhelming bias. Nonetheless, it is a systematic source of variation that may make detection of ecological patterns more difficult. Therefore, standardization of lipid-extraction techniques would undoubtedly add clarity to investigations of animal ecology that rely on isotopic tracers.

#### Using carbon-isotope ratios of tissues as time-integrated samples

Feeding experiments have shown that the turnover rate of isotopes in a particular tissue is a product of that tissue's metabolic rate (Tieszen et al. 1983; Hobson and Clark 1992a). Thus, different tissues provide dietary information that is integrated over different time scales (Hobson and Clark 1992a; Hilderbrand et al. 1996; Hobson et al. 1996). In Quail (*Coturnix japonica*), for instance, blood had higher turnover rates of carbon isotopes than muscle, which in turn had higher turnover rates than bone (Hobson and Clark 1992a). Also, the isotope composition of hair and feathers reflects the diet at the time they were grown. This property, and that they can be sampled without killing the animal, have made these tissues particularly attractive for isotope studies (Mizutani et al. 1990, 1992; Kelly and Finch 1998; Schoeninger et al. 1997, 1998).

#### Carbon-isotope ratios of browsers' versus grazers' tissues

Some authors of carbon-isotope studies have divided terrestrial herbivorous mammals on the basis of whether they

eat grass (grazers) or other plants (browsers) rather than whether they eat C<sub>3</sub> or C<sub>4</sub> plants. For instance, Ambrose and DeNiro (1986), DeNiro and Epstein (1978b), and Vogel (1978) found a clear distinction between browsers and grazers in regions of Africa where C<sub>4</sub> grasslands predominate, because grazers eat C<sub>4</sub> grasses and browsers eat C<sub>3</sub> forbs and shrubs. This situation is somewhat unusual in that few biomes are dominated by C<sub>4</sub> plants (e.g., Teeri and Stowe 1976). When grazers have access only to grasslands dominated by C<sub>3</sub> grasses, which is more typical, there is no difference in  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values between browsers and grazers. For example, the grasslands of Alberta are dominated by C<sub>3</sub> grasses and in this environment Chisholm et al. (1986) found that the bone collagen of grazers (e.g., the bison, *Bison bison*) had  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values between -18 and -20‰. Cormie and Schwarcz (1994) examined the bone collagen of a browser (white-tailed deer) from most regions of North America. The subset of these deer from Alberta had  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values between -18 and -22‰. The nearly total overlap in isotope signature for bison and white-tailed deer in Alberta illustrates that with regard to isotope composition, the important distinction is whether a herbivorous mammal eats C<sub>3</sub> or C<sub>4</sub> plants and not whether it grazes or browses.

Nonetheless, for some investigations, the important ecological distinction is whether a species browses or grazes. In theory, because nearly all C<sub>4</sub> plants are grasses, grazers can rely on either C<sub>3</sub> or C<sub>4</sub> carbon sources, whereas browsers are confined to C<sub>3</sub> sources. When 54 terrestrial herbivorous mammals were classified as browsers, grazers, or mixed feeders (one species was a granivore), all 23 browsers relied on C<sub>3</sub> plants ( $\delta^{13}\text{C} = -19.7 \pm 2.7\text{‰}$ ) as expected, as did 12 of 13 mixed feeders ( $\delta^{13}\text{C} = -17.3 \pm 5.1\text{‰}$ ). Similarly 17 of 20 grazers ate C<sub>4</sub> plants ( $\delta^{13}\text{C} = -9.7 \pm 3.0\text{‰}$ ). Because of a

lack of data for  $C_3$  grazers, the practical difference between browser versus grazer and  $C_3$  versus  $C_4$  classification systems for data in this review is minimal.

## Nitrogen

### *Sources with distinct nitrogen-isotope signatures*

Most natural materials have  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values between  $-20$  and  $+45\%$  (DeNiro and Hastorf 1985; Mizutani and Wada 1988; Mizutani et al. 1986; Peterson and Fry 1987; Ehleringer and Rundel 1989). As was the case for carbon isotopes, the utility of nitrogen isotopes in animal ecology relies on their distribution in foods and how they are incorporated into the tissues of consumers. Unlike carbon isotopes, there is no single process, like photosynthesis, that creates a large isotopic fractionation of nitrogen isotopes in plants that can be traced through food webs. Moreover, comparing  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values across food webs or large spatial scales is problematic, particularly in terrestrial environments. The fundamental problem is that terrestrial plants vary widely in  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values. Peterson and Fry (1987) reported foliage  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values of between  $-8$  and  $+3\%$ , but more positive values (up to  $18\%$ ) have been reported for desert plants (Shearer et al. 1983; Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984). This  $26\%$  variation ( $-8$  to  $+18\%$ ) is derived from a number of sources, primarily (i) the large variation in  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values of soils ( $\delta^{15}\text{N} = 9.2 \pm 2.1\%$ , range =  $2$ – $12\%$ ; Shearer et al. 1978; Shearer and Kohl 1989) and (ii) the systematic enrichment of deep-rooted plants over those with shallow roots (Virginia et al. 1989).

Despite this variation, it has been shown that nitrogen isotopes are useful for identifying the contributions of several types of plants to food chains. On average,  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values of marine phytoplankton (average  $7\%$ , range  $1$ – $16\%$ ) tend to be enriched by about  $4\%$  relative to those of terrestrial plants (average  $3\%$ , range  $-8$  to  $+18\%$ ; Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984; Sealy et al. 1987; Ambrose 1993), with the exception of plants in some marine environments where nitrogen fixation plays an important role (e.g., coral reefs and salt marshes; Capone and Carpenter 1982; Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984). Among terrestrial plants,  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values of nitrogen-fixing plants (average  $1\%$ , range  $-7$  to  $+7\%$ ) are depleted by  $2\%$ , on average, relative to non-nitrogen-fixing plants (Virginia and Delwiche 1982; Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984; Virginia et al. 1989; Lajtha and Marshall 1994). This difference in nitrogen fixation in plants also has consequences for consumers. For instance, Schoeninger et al. (1998) showed that the percentage of time spent foraging on nitrogen-fixing legumes was directly related to the  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values of white-footed sportive lemurs (*Lepilemur leucopus*). Thus, despite the large variation in  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values of plants, there are some general patterns that can be useful for identifying sources of nitrogen in consumers' diets in special circumstances. Typically, however, it is difficult to identify the relative contribution of various plant types to food chains on the basis of nitrogen-isotope ratios.

### *Fractionation of nitrogen isotopes in digestion and excretion*

In terms of total isotope composition, the nitrogen isotopes in an animal's tissues are ultimately determined by those absorbed from the diet minus those excreted as by-

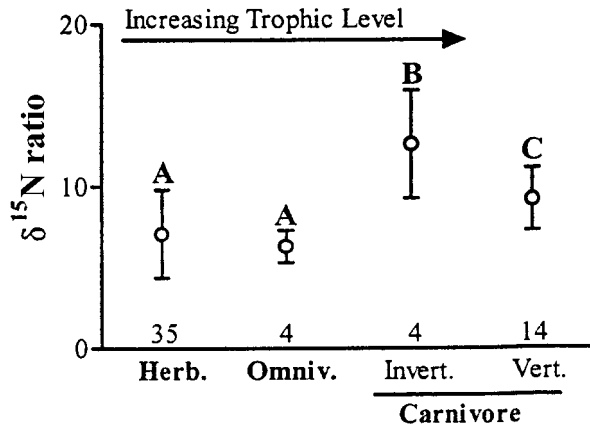
products of metabolism in the form of nitrogenous wastes. The primary source of nitrogen for most animals are amino acids derived from digested proteins. In mammals at least, these amino acids enter the bloodstream and are taken up by cells, primarily in the liver or muscle, where many of them are converted to ammonia and carbohydrate through deamination or transamination. Ammonia is then converted to urea, diffused into the blood, and eventually excreted via the kidneys. Carbohydrates produced by deamination and transamination can be used to produce energy,  $\text{CO}_2$ , and water, or to build fatty acids. Most amino acids not used for energy or fat synthesis are used to build proteins (Vander et al. 1975; Eckert et al. 1988).

It is during the absorption of nitrogen isotopes from the diet and conversion of amino acids to other compounds that isotope fractionation is thought to take place (Minagwa and Wada 1984; Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984; Ambrose and DeNiro 1986). That ingested food has a higher  $^{15}\text{N}/^{14}\text{N}$  ratio than feces is evidence that  $^{14}\text{N}$  is preferentially removed from the diet in the digestive tract of mammals (Steele and Daniel 1978; Sutoh et al. 1987). Alone, this fractionation would lead to lower  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values in the tissues of mammals than in their diets. Working in opposition to this process, however, is the fractionation of nitrogen isotopes during the production of urea or uric acid. Urea and uric acid have lower  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values than mammalian tissues, indicating that  $^{14}\text{N}$  is preferentially excreted (Steele and Daniel 1978; Minagwa and Wada 1984). If isotope fractionation during the absorption of nitrogen from the diet was greater than during the production of nitrogenous wastes, then  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values in tissues of consumers would be depleted relative to the diet. In reality, the opposite is true. The fractionation associated with the production of nitrogenous waste appears to be greater than that associated with the absorption of nitrogen from the diet. That is, consumers' tissues tend to be enriched in  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values relative to the diet rather than depleted (Minagwa and Wada 1984; Ambrose 1993; Michener and Schell 1994).

### *Nitrogen-isotope ratios of consumers' bodies*

The primary utility of nitrogen-isotope ratios for animal ecology lies in their relationship with trophic level. DeNiro and Epstein (1981) were the first to experimentally document an average of  $3\%$  (range  $0$ – $10\%$ ) enrichment in  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values for whole-body samples over the diet. Because of limited data from whole-body samples of birds and mammals, the estimate of  $3\%$  enrichment of whole-body samples has not received much verification in these taxa. Studies of other taxa, however, have generally supported the  $3\%$  enrichment in  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  for whole bodies over diet (e.g., Minagwa and Wada 1984; Peterson and Fry 1987). Experiments that have determined the diet–tissue fractionation of nitrogen isotopes for birds and mammals show that most tissues are enriched over the diet by  $1$ – $5\%$  (DeNiro and Epstein 1981; Mizutani et al. 1991, 1992; Hobson and Clark 1992a; Hobson et al. 1996). These studies suggest some patterns in nitrogen-isotope fractionation among tissues. Feathers, bone, and skin tend to be more enriched in  $^{15}\text{N}$  than most tissues, and  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values of muscle tissue more closely reflect those of the whole body than do other tissues.

**Fig. 3.** Nitrogen-isotope ratios (mean  $\pm$  SD) of bone collagen for trophic groups of terrestrial mammals. Carnivores were divided into those that ate vertebrates and those that ate invertebrates. An ANOVA was used to test for overall significance of variation in  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values among groups ( $F_{[3,53]} = 7.8$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ). Differences between specific groups were tested with least significant difference post hoc tests. Different letters denote trophic groups that differ significantly in  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values. Numbers above the abscissa are sample sizes.



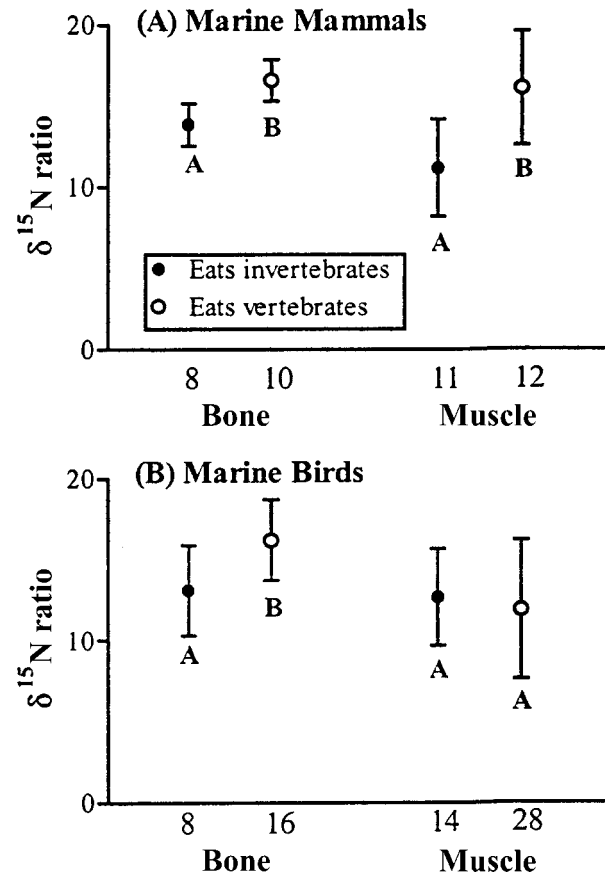
In a number of food-web studies  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values have been successfully used to describe trophic relationships (Schoeninger and Deniro 1984; Sealy et al. 1987; Hobson and Montevecchi 1991; Rau et al. 1992; Hobson and Welch 1992; Bocherens et al. 1995; Hobson et al. 1997c; Kwak and Zedler 1997). In combination, these results and those of laboratory experiments support the generalization that, on average, a 3–4‰ enrichment in  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values accompanies each trophic step (Peterson and Fry 1987; Tieszen et al. 1989; Ambrose 1993; Koch et al. 1994; Michener and Schell 1994).

Based on these patterns, herbivores are expected to have lower  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values than carnivores. Furthermore, if trophic chains of carnivores that eat vertebrates are longer than those of carnivores that eat invertebrates, as is often implied, higher  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values would be expected in carnivores that eat vertebrates. Finally, since omnivores, as defined for this study, eat both plants and animals, they should have  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values intermediate between those of herbivores and carnivores. Koch et al. (1994), however, suggest that omnivores should occupy the highest trophic level.

Data from the literature indicate that  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values of carnivores that ate invertebrates (12.6‰) were significantly enriched over herbivores, omnivores, and carnivores that ate vertebrates by 5.5, 3.4, and 5.5‰, respectively (Fig. 3). These data demonstrate that values for both groups of carnivores were significantly enriched over those for herbivores as expected. Contrary to expectations, however, carnivores that ate invertebrates had higher  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values than those that ate vertebrates. Also at odds with predictions was the finding that omnivores had the lowest  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values of any trophic group.

Results from marine species were more consistent with predictions. Marine mammals that ate vertebrates had significantly higher  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values than those that ate invertebrates in both bone (2.7‰ enrichment) and muscle (4.9‰ enrichment)

**Fig. 4.** Differences in nitrogen-isotope ratios (mean  $\pm$  SD) of bone collagen and muscle between trophic groups of marine mammals (A) and marine birds (B). Within each tissue type, comparisons ( $t$  tests) were made between species that eat vertebrates and those that eat invertebrates. Samples that differ significantly are labeled with different letters. Numbers below the abscissa are sample sizes.



(Fig. 4a). Marine birds that ate vertebrates also had significantly higher  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values than those that ate invertebrates in bone (3.1‰ enrichment) but not in muscle (Fig. 4b).

Seabirds and marine mammals from oceans at north-temperate and arctic latitudes had higher  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values than those from oceans at south-temperate and antarctic latitudes. Data for all but two species of seabirds (White-tailed Tropicbird and Magnificent Frigatebird) were collected at either  $>30^\circ\text{N}$  or  $>30^\circ\text{S}$ . For bone and muscle, species from northern latitudes generally had greater  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values (bone,  $16.3 \pm 2.1\text{‰}$ ,  $N = 19$ ; muscle,  $14.5 \pm 2.1\text{‰}$ ,  $N = 27$ ) than those from southern latitudes (bone,  $10.9 \pm 0.7\text{‰}$ ,  $N = 5$ ;  $t = 6.4$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ; muscle,  $8.1 \pm 3.1\text{‰}$ ,  $N = 15$ ;  $t = 7.1$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ). This pattern was also evident for mammalian muscle, where northern species had higher  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values ( $14.8 \pm 3.0\text{‰}$ ,  $N = 18$ ) than southern species ( $10.0 \pm 5.4\text{‰}$ ,  $N = 5$ ;  $t = 2.7$ ,  $P < 0.02$ ). Only 1 of 18 bone samples of marine mammals was from a southern latitude.

The trophic-level differences between species that ate vertebrates and invertebrates were still evident when a distinction was made between northern and southern oceans. Seabirds from northern oceans that ate vertebrates had higher

**Table 4.** Results of an ANOVA in which the  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  value for bone collagen of terrestrial mammals was the dependent variable and trophic level (herbivore, omnivore, or carnivore) and habitat moisture (xeric or mesic) were the independent class variables; carnivores were divided into those that eat vertebrates and those that eat invertebrates.

Source of variance	Type III sum of squares	df	Mean square		
			square	<i>F</i>	<i>P</i>
Trophic level	110.2	3	36.7	7.8	<0.001
Habitat moisture	65.3	1	65.3	13.9	<0.001
Interaction	4.9	2	2.5	0.5	<0.597
Error	235.4	50	4.7		

$\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values (muscle:  $15.4 \pm 0.9\%$ ,  $N = 15$ ; bone:  $17.2 \pm 1.3\%$ ,  $N = 13$ ) than those that ate invertebrates (muscle:  $13.2 \pm 2.4\%$ ,  $N = 12$ ;  $t = 2.9$ ,  $P < 0.02$ ; bone:  $14.2 \pm 2.0\%$ ,  $N = 6$ ;  $t = 3.4$ ,  $P < 0.02$ ). Likewise, mammals from northern oceans that ate vertebrates had higher  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values for muscle ( $16.6 \pm 2.4\%$ ,  $N = 10$ ) than those that ate invertebrates ( $12.6 \pm 2.1\%$ ,  $N = 8$ ;  $t = 3.7$ ,  $P < 0.002$ ). There were too few samples in some diet categories to do similar tests for species from southern oceans. In total, these results support the notion that there is a trophic-level difference between marine species that eat vertebrates and those that eat invertebrates, at least in northern oceans. The clear results obtained from marine species contrast with the complex picture for terrestrial mammals. This difference is certainly due, in part, to climatic, topographic, and edaphic influences of terrestrial environments on  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values of plants and consumers.

#### Water and nutritional stress

The degree to which nitrogen isotopes are fractionated in the production of nitrogenous waste appears to be related, at least in mammals, to the water stress experienced (Ambrose and DeNiro 1986; Sealy et al. 1987; Cormie and Schwarcz 1996). The effect of water stress is thought to contribute to the finding of an inverse relationship between annual rainfall and the  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values of consumers' tissues (Heaton et al. 1986; Sealy et al. 1987; Cormie and Schwarcz 1996). A likely explanation for this pattern is that the fractionation of nitrogen isotopes is greater in the production of concentrated nitrogenous waste than in the production of dilute nitrogenous waste, which would result in elevated  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values (Ambrose 1991, 1993; Cormie and Schwarcz 1996). The high  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values found in plants of arid regions (Shearer et al. 1983; Heaton 1987) may also contribute to this pattern. There has been some debate about the effects of water stress on the  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values for ruminants and hind-gut fermenters that can recycle urea to the gut as a source of nitrogen for microbial digestion. Sealy et al. (1987) have argued that this recycling of urea would result in higher  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values in water-stressed ruminants. Ambrose (1991, 1993) argued that, without regard to recycling nitrogen, water stress alone would increase  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values in ruminants because of increased fractionation during the production of urea. Moreover, Ambrose (1991, 1993) reasoned that in protein-stressed herbivores, the recycling of nitrogen to the gut will reduce  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values, because the nitrogen in urea has lower  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values than body tissues and  $^{14}\text{N}$  is preferentially absorbed during digestion.

**Table 5.** Delta $^{15}\text{N}$  values of bone collagen of terrestrial mammals by trophic level; carnivores are divided into those that eat vertebrates and those that eat invertebrates.

Diet	Habitat moisture		<i>t</i> <sup>a</sup>	<i>P</i>
	Mesic	Xeric		
Herbivore	6.3±2.2 (23)	8.7±2.8 (12)	2.6	0.02
Omnivore	6.3±1.0 (4)	—		
Carnivore				
Invertebrates	10.2±1.1 (2)	15.0±3.2 (2)	1.9	0.26
Vertebrates	8.2±1.9 (8)	10.6±0.7 (8)	3.4	0.01

**Note:** Values are given as the mean  $\pm$  SD; numbers in parentheses are sample sizes.

<sup>a</sup>Results of *t* tests for effects within each trophic group.

Nutritional stress also causes an elevation in  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values. That is, catabolism of the body's proteins during periods of stress may elevate  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values (Hobson and Clark 1992b; Ambrose 1993; Cormie and Schwarcz 1996). This pattern may help to explain the finding that  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values can vary widely both among species fed the same diet and among individuals of the same species that are fed different diets (DeNiro and Epstein 1981). Hobson and Clark (1992b) showed that the fractionation factor for most tissues was greater (up to 6‰) for American Crows (*Corvus brachyrhampus*) fed plant-based diets than for those fed fish (perch, *Perca flavescens*). Birds that were fed fish also gained more mass than those fed plant diets, which supports the conclusion that food stress caused these differences in fractionation between diet and tissues. This conclusion was later upheld in a combined experimental and field study that documented enriched  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values in birds subjected to nutritional stress (Hobson et al. 1993).

Data compiled for this review demonstrate enrichment in  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values in species that use xeric habitats relative to those that use mesic habitats. ANOVA indicated that there was an overall effect of habitat moisture on the  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values of bone collagen for terrestrial mammals (Table 4). Even with this effect accounted for, however, the differences in  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values among trophic levels remained significant (Table 4). For herbivores and carnivores that ate vertebrates, the use of xeric habitats was associated with significantly enriched  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values (2.4‰) relative to species that used mesic habitats (Table 5). The few carnivores that ate invertebrates showed the same qualitative trend (4.8‰ enrichment). These values agree roughly with the few enrichment values available from controlled experiments on nutritional stress (Hobson 1993). In South Africa, an enrichment of 2.4‰ in bone collagen would be indicative of a 200-mm difference in annual rainfall (Sealy et al. 1987).

The difference in enrichment in  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values of xeric species over mesic species was identical for herbivores and carnivores, which seems to support the urine-concentration model of Ambrose (1991, 1993) rather than the recycling model of Sealy et al. (1987). That is, if recycling of urea to the gut of herbivores is a major cause of the enrichment in  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values in species in xeric environments, then the enrichment in herbivores should have been greater than that in carnivores, which it was not. It may also be possible, though it seems unlikely, that carnivores from xeric habitats eat nothing but herbivores from xeric habitats, which would pro-



**Table 6.** Results of linear regression analyses in which the  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values of carnivores were used as the dependent variable and body mass was used as the independent variable.

	Environment	Class	Slope ( $\bar{x} \pm \text{SE}$ )	Intercept ( $\bar{x} \pm \text{SE}$ )	$R^2$	df	$F$	$P_{\text{slope}}$
Bone	Marine	Birds	$-2.41 \pm 0.93$	$22.3 \pm 2.8$	0.24	21	6.7	0.02
		Mammals	$-0.57 \pm 0.28$	$18.7 \pm 1.7$	0.21	16	4.2	0.06
	Terrestrial	Mammals	$-0.43 \pm 0.65$	$11.6 \pm 2.6$	0.03	16	0.4	0.52
Muscle	Marine	Birds	$0.68 \pm 1.19$	$10.2 \pm 3.3$	0.01	39	0.3	0.57
		Mammals	$-1.17 \pm 0.97$	$20.5 \pm 5.7$	0.02	21	1.5	0.24

duce an enrichment in these xeric-habitat carnivores similar to that found here. Also, since nothing is known about the protein content of the diets of the animals in the sample, Ambrose's (1991, 1993) prediction that recycling of nitrogen would lower the  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values of protein-stressed herbivores could not be tested here. Overall, these data seem to support the notion that increased fractionation of nitrogen isotopes in the production of concentrated urine leads to elevated  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values in species in xeric environments.

Given that  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  enrichment associated with habitat moisture is nearly as great as that associated with each trophic step, it is important for researchers to remain vigilant concerning the potential of nutritional and water stress to influence nitrogen-isotope ratios. Attempting to minimize variation due to nutritional status or climatic conditions would be worthwhile. Research aimed at determining the extent to which  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values of consumers in arid regions are a product of (i) elevated  $^{15}\text{N}$  concentrations in plants, (ii) increased fractionation in the production of nitrogenous wastes, or (iii) catabolism of body protein during periods of nutritional stress would also be useful.

#### Age, body size, and nitrogen-isotope ratio

Laboratory studies of nitrogen isotopes often use young animals that are still growing. Therefore, applying the results of these studies to field situations requires that isotope content and fractionation in young animals be equivalent to those of older, larger animals eating the same diet. Consequently, the relationship between body size and nitrogen-isotope ratio is of interest. A further rationale for examining the relationship between body size and  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values is that in many taxa, body size is a determinant of diet (e.g., Werner and Gilliam 1984). Among carnivores particularly, larger species tend to occupy a higher trophic position. Thus, trophic position is, in part, dependent on body size (Peters 1983; Brown and Lomilino 1998). Relatively few studies have tested for the effects of age and body size on  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values. They have generally looked for intraspecific patterns and, with the exception of Rau et al. (1982), found none (Minagwa and Wada 1984; Sutoh et al. 1987; Schell et al. 1989a, 1989b; Hobson and Clark 1992b; Best and Schell 1996). The lack of evidence for intraspecific relationships between body size and  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values does not rule out the potential for meaningful interspecific variation, particularly since it is interspecific variation in body size that has been linked most closely to trophic position.

Data compiled for this review show no evidence of an increase in  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values with body size. In bone collagen of seabirds, there was a significant decrease in  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  with increasing body mass (Table 6). The relationship between  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$

values and body mass in marine mammals was also nearly significantly negative. These patterns are the opposite of the expected increase in  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values with body mass. There were no patterns in the relationship between  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values and body mass for muscle tissue of seabirds or marine mammals. The significant pattern found in bone of seabirds dissolves if the samples are divided into those from northern oceans and those from southern oceans. Thus, it seems that the difference in isotope signatures of species in northern and southern oceans is primarily responsible for the negative relationship detected between body mass and  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values. Thus, the primary result is that there is no detectable increase in  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values with body mass at the interspecific level, which is similar to results obtained in previous studies.

#### Covariation of carbon- and nitrogen-isotope ratios

There is evidence that the relative enrichment in  $^{15}\text{N}$  in consumers' tissues is not independent of their enrichment in  $^{13}\text{C}$ . Mizutani et al. (1991) showed a positive linear relationship between  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values among the tissues of a single Cormorant ( $\delta^{15}\text{N} = 1.11 \times \delta^{13}\text{C} + 32.3$ ;  $R^2 = 0.85$ ). If there is a mechanism that links  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values within an individual, it remains unclear. In some instances, a similar pattern has been found at the intraspecific level as well (Sealy et al. 1987; Vogel et al. 1990a; Cormie and Schwarz 1994; Hilderbrand et al. 1996). Sealy et al. (1987) reported a linear relationship between  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values in humans ( $\delta^{15}\text{N} = 0.57 \times \delta^{13}\text{C} + 22.5$ ;  $R^2 = 0.19$ ). There is also limited evidence for linear positive associations between  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values within food webs and across broader species assemblages (Bocherens et al. 1995; Ben-David et al. 1997a). Thackeray et al. (1993) reported separate relationships for African browsers ( $\delta^{15}\text{N} = 1.03 \times \delta^{13}\text{C} + 28.7$ ;  $R^2 = 0.40$ ) and grazers ( $\delta^{15}\text{N} = -1.09 \times \delta^{13}\text{C} - 3.5$ ;  $R^2 = 0.71$ ). If these relationships are purely a product of trophic-level enrichment, a slope of between 1.5 and 4 would be expected (i.e., a 3–4‰ increase in  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values divided by a 1–2‰ increase in  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values); all the reported relationships have slopes that are shallower than this range.

Interpretation of these relationships is difficult, particularly at the interspecific level. Data compiled for this review show a significant positive relationship between  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values in bone collagen (Fig. 5, Table 7). As is also clear from Fig. 5, however, this trend is primarily due to the relationship between the isotope signatures of  $\text{C}_3$ ,  $\text{C}_4$ , and marine plants. That is, the positive relationship between  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values in bone collagen is likely the result of  $\text{C}_3$  plants growing in more mesic areas than  $\text{C}_4$  plants. Because  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values are greater in species in xeric environments (Ta-

**Table 7.** Results of linear regression analysis in which  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values were treated as the dependent variable and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values as the independent variable (significant relationships are plotted in Figs. 5 and 6).

Food chain	Tissue	Slope ( $\bar{x} \pm \text{SE}$ )	Intercept ( $\bar{x} \pm \text{SE}$ )	df	<i>F</i>	<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	<i>P</i> <sub>slope</sub>
All	Bone	0.33±0.08	15.3±1.4	85	16.8	0.16	<0.001
C <sub>3</sub>	Bone	0.13±0.14	9.9±2.8	42	0.8	0.02	0.815
C <sub>4</sub>	Bone	-0.07±0.31	8.9±2.9	15	0.1	0.00	0.836
C <sub>3</sub> + C <sub>4</sub>	Bone	0.17±0.06	10.9±1.1	59	7.2	0.11	0.010
Marine	Bone	0.48±0.17	21.4±2.4	24	8.3	0.26	0.008
Marine	Muscle	1.23±0.25	37.6±4.6	36	25.0	0.41	<0.001

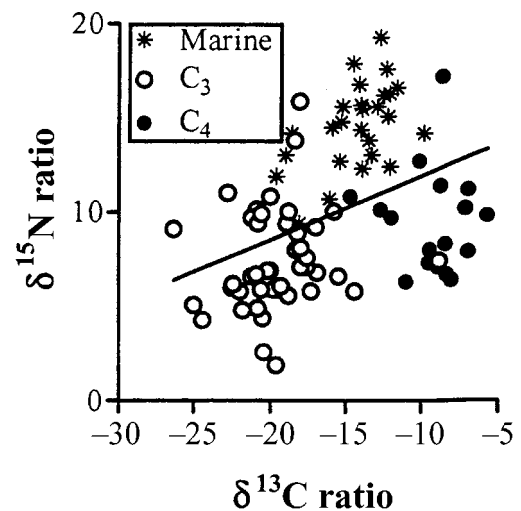
ble 5), where C<sub>4</sub> plants are more likely to dominate, consumers that rely on C<sub>4</sub> food chains will have heavier isotope ratios for both carbon and nitrogen than consumers that rely on C<sub>3</sub> food chains (Heaton et al. 1986; Sealy et al. 1987). This fact alone could account for the positive relationship in Fig. 4. Specifically, the 2.4‰ enrichment in  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values in terrestrial mammals from xeric habitats over those from mesic habitats (Table 5) divided by the 8.2–10.3‰ separation between mammals dependent on C<sub>3</sub> versus C<sub>4</sub> food chains (Table 7) yields a slope of 0.23–0.29. When only data from C<sub>3</sub> and C<sub>4</sub> food chains are considered, the slope of the regression is quite close to these values (Table 7). Thus, it seems possible for a moisture gradient, from locations dominated by C<sub>3</sub> plants (mesic) to those dominated by C<sub>4</sub> plants (xeric), coupled with the difference in  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values associated with photosynthetic pathway, to account for most of the covariation between  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values in terrestrial mammals. It should be noted, though, that the slopes reported here are much shallower than those reported by Thackeray et al. (1993, 1996).

Within trophic systems (C<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>4</sub>, or marine), only consumers of marine carbon and nitrogen showed significant covariation between  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values (Fig. 6, Table 7). The mechanism for this relationship is probably the stronger trophic enrichment in  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values in marine environments than in terrestrial environments (Rau et al. 1983; Boutton 1991). If the trophic enrichment in carbon isotopes was 3‰, the slope would be about 1, which is within 1 SD of the actual slope for muscle tissue. In most studies, data collected for constructing food webs come from one or a few localities. It is not clear, however, how combining these data across localities influences the patterns reported here. More research is needed to explain these patterns in a quantitative fashion. This review does not support the notion that  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values covary within C<sub>3</sub> and C<sub>4</sub> food chains. Covariation does, however, appear to be a real pattern in marine food webs. There is little quantitative understanding of how dietary patterns create covariation in  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values at the individual, intraspecific, or interspecific level. More research on these patterns and the processes that underlie them will be required if they are to be used to gain an understanding the ecology of birds and mammals.

### Summary

Despite the potential difficulties of interpreting nitrogen-isotope patterns,  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values have been used successfully in a number of cases to augment traditional food-web and dietary studies and, in conjunction with  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values, to distinguish

**Fig. 5.** Relationships between stable-isotope ratios of nitrogen and carbon in bone collagen. Species that rely on C<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>4</sub>, and marine food chains are indicated. The regression equation and statistics are given in Table 7.

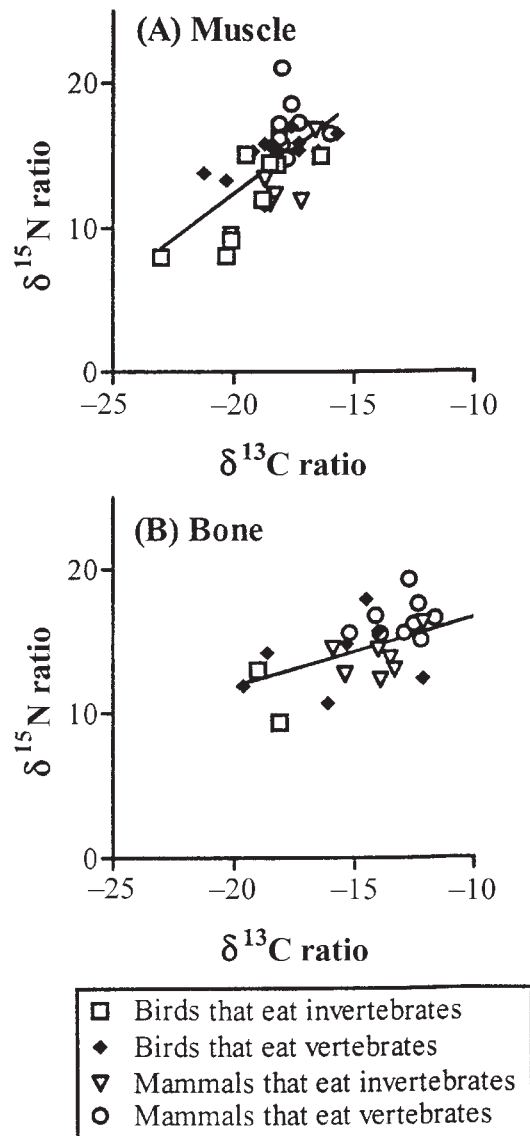


among terrestrial, nearshore, and pelagic foraging (e.g., Hobson and Welch 1992; Hobson et al. 1994; Alexander et al. 1996; Hilderbrand et al. 1996; Ben-David et al. 1997a, 1997b; Bearhop et al. 1999). The consistent success of these studies suggests that, when attention is paid to potential pitfalls, nitrogen isotopes provide useful information about the trophic ecology of birds and mammals. For these reasons, the conclusions of this and other reviews are that (i) nitrogen-isotope ratios can be useful for distinguishing among diets based on marine, terrestrial, or nitrogen-fixing plants; (ii) nutritional and water stress can be an important source of variation in  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values; and (iii) a 3–4‰ enrichment in  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values should be expected with each trophic step (Peterson and Fry 1987; Boutton 1991; Ambrose 1993; Koch et al. 1994; Michener and Schell 1994).

### Recommendations

The promise of using stable isotopes in studies of the ecology of birds and mammals remains vast. As is apparent from this review, much about how isotopes are distributed in plants and animals is poorly understood. Many of these limitations can be overcome with further carefully designed studies (Gannes et al. 1997). Thus, experiments, both in the laboratory and in the field, that reveal the effects of methodology (e.g., lipid extraction), physiology, and ecology on

**Fig. 6.** Relationships between stable-isotope ratios of nitrogen and carbon for muscle (A) and bone collagen (B) of species that rely on marine food chains. Birds and mammals are both divided into those that eat vertebrates and those that eat invertebrates. Regression equations and statistics are given in Table 7.



patterns of natural variation in stable-isotope ratios, have particular value. More direct linkages between controlled laboratory studies and descriptive field studies have the potential to increase our understanding of the trophic ecology of wild animals (Gannes et al. 1997). In addition, advances in our understanding continue to accelerate with technological advances. Because it is now possible to examine the spatial and temporal variation that is so central to ecology, studies that use stable isotopes to document this variation should be a high priority. In essence, the ideal would be to have an isotope geographic information system, that is, spatial and temporal data on isotope ratios of soil, water, plants, and animals which would provide context for further study. To this end, the potential for using museum collections to examine variation across large spatial and temporal scales would seem to be enormous (e.g., Hilderbrand et al. 1996).

On another front, the potential to examine the isotope ratios of specific compounds, such as essential versus nonessential amino acids, appears to open new areas of investigation that have been heretofore untapped (Macko 1994).

A large number of the studies reviewed here report data on species that have some legal protection because they are rare. These investigations are aided by the potential to use biopsy techniques to obtain samples without jeopardizing the health of the animal; these techniques should be employed wherever possible. The use of stable-isotope techniques to aid in the conservation of these species should be lauded and supported. It has become increasingly clear that stable-isotope technology can provide information relevant to contaminant effects (Macko and Ostrom 1994; Jarman et al. 1997) and current versus historical diets (Hilderbrand et al. 1996), as well as basic trophic information that could be of value in many conservation efforts. There are numerous other applied topics where stable-isotope data could improve our ecological understanding: the effects of exotic or pest species on nutrient flows, the influences of agricultural development on habitat use, and the effects of domestic predators on urban wildlife, for instance. To expedite work on such topics, collaboration between scientists with expertise in applied conservation issues and those with a background in isotope ecology should be fostered.

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## Appendix

**Table A1.** The focal taxonomic order, isotope ratios measured, the question asked, the methods used, and the continent and environment in which the study was carried out for 102 studies that report stable carbon isotope ratios and (or) stable nitrogen isotope ratios of birds and (or) mammals.

Order	Isotope <sup>a</sup>	Question	Methods <sup>b</sup>	Continent	Environment	Source
<b>Birds</b>						
Struthioniformes	C, N	Climate	F, D	Africa	Terrestrial	Johnson et al. 1997
	C	Diet	F, D	Africa	Terrestrial	von Schirnding et al. 1982
Sphenisciformes	C	Tracer	F, D	Australia	Marine	Moors et al. 1988
	C	Tracer	F, D	Antarctica	Marine	Mizutani et al. 1985
Procellariiformes	C, N	Food web	F, D		Marine	Gould et al. 1997
	C, N	Diet	F, D	Asia	Marine	Minami et al. 1995
	C, N	Diet	F, D	Europe	Marine	Thompson and Furness 1995
	C, N	Diet	F, D	Europe	Marine	Thompson et al. 1995
Pelecaniformes	C, N	Method	E, L	Asia	Marine	Mizutani et al. 1991
	C	Diet	F, D	Asia	Marine	Mizutani et al. 1990
Anseriiformes	C, N	Diet	B	North America	Terrestrial	Hobson et al. 1993
	C, N	Diet	F, D	North America	Terrestrial	Alisauskas and Hobson 1993
	C	Tracer	F, D	North America	Terrestrial	Alisauskas et al. 1998
	C	Diet	F, D	Australia	Terrestrial	Collier and Lyon 1991
Galliformes	C, N	Method	F, E	North America	Terrestrial	Gloutney and Hobson 1998
	C, N	Method	E, L	North America	Terrestrial	Hobson et al. 1997a
	C	Diet	E, L	North America	Terrestrial	Hobson and Clark 1992a
Charadriiformes	C, N	Diet	F, D	North America	Marine	Schmutz and Hobson 1998
	C, N	Diet	F, D	North America	Terrestrial	Alexander et al. 1996
	N	Food web	F, D	North America	Marine	Hobson and Montevecchi 1991
	C, N	Diet	F, D	North America	Marine	Hobson 1990
	C	Diet	F, D	North America	Marine	Hobson 1987
Strigiformes	C, N	Diet	F, D	North America	Terrestrial	Hobson and Sealy 1991
Passeriformes	C	Diet	E, L	North America	Terrestrial	Hobson and Clark 1993
	C	Tracer	F, D	North America	Terrestrial	Chamberlain et al. 1997
Multiple <sup>c</sup>	C, N	Pollution	F, D	Europe	Marine	Broman et al. 1992



Table A1 (continued).

	C, N	Diet	E, L	North America	Terrestrial	Hobson and Clark 1992 <i>b</i>
	C, N	Diet	E, L	North America	Terrestrial	Hobson 1995
	C	Tracer	F, D	North America	Marine and terrestrial	Hobson et al. 1997 <i>b</i>
	C, N	Food web	F, D	North America	Marine	Hobson et al. 1994
	C, N	Diet	F, D	North America	Marine	Kwak and Zedler 1997
	C, N	Food web	F, D	North America	Terrestrial	Hobson 1993
	C, N	Diet	E, L	Asia	Terrestrial	Mizutani et al. 1992
	C, N	Nutrient	F, D	Antarctica	Marine	Mizutani and Wada 1988
	N	Nutrient	F, D	Asia	Marine	Mizutani et al. 1986
	C	Diet	F, D	North America	Marine	Schaffner and Swart 1991
		Climate			Marine	Furness and Camphuysen 1997
<b>Mammals</b>						
Marsupialia	C	Diet	F, D	Australia	Terrestrial	Horsup and Marsh 1992
Chiroptera	C	Diet	F, D	North America	Terrestrial	Des Marais et al. 1980
	C	Diet	F, D	North America	Terrestrial	Fleming et al. 1993
	N	Nutrient	F, D	North America	Terrestrial	McFarlane et al. 1995
	C	Diet	F, D	North America	Terrestrial	Herrera et al. 1993
Primates	C, N	Diet	F, D	South America	Terrestrial	Schoeninger et al. 1997
	C, N	Diet	F, D	Africa	Terrestrial	Schoeninger et al. 1998
	C, N	Paleontology	F, D	Africa	Terrestrial	Thackeray et al. 1996
Cetacea	N	Tracer	F, D	Europe	Marine	Abend and Smith 1995
	N	Diet	F, D	North America	Marine	Abend and Smith 1997
	C	Tracer	F, D	Africa	Marine	Best and Schell 1996
	C	Diet	F, D	North America	Marine	Borobia et al. 1995
	C, N	Diet	F, D	North America	Marine	Nelson et al. 1991
	C, N	Diet	F, D	North America	Marine	Ostrom et al. 1993
	C	Tracer	F, D	North America	Marine	Schell et al. 1989 <i>a</i>
	C	Tracer	F, D	North America	Marine	Schell et al. 1989 <i>b</i>
Carnivora	C, N	Diet	F, D	North America	Terrestrial	Ben-David et al. 1997 <i>a</i>
	C, N	Diet	F, D	North America	Terrestrial	Ben-David et al. 1997 <i>b</i>
	C	Diet	F, D	Europe	Terrestrial	Angerbjorn et al. 1994
	C	Diet	F, D	Europe	Terrestrial	Gilmour et al. 1995
	C	Diet	F, D	Europe	Terrestrial	Grupe and Krueger 1990
	C, N	Diet	B	North America	Terrestrial	Hilderbrand et al. 1996
	C	Diet	F, D	Europe	Terrestrial	Pond et al. 1995
	C	Diet	F, D	North America	Terrestrial	Ramsay and Hobson 1991
Pinnipedia	C	Food web	F, D	Africa	Terrestrial	Sillen and Lee-Thorp 1994
	C, N	Diet	F, D	North America	Marine	Hobson and Sease 1998
	C, N	Food web	F, D	North America	Marine	Hobson et al. 1997 <i>c</i>
	C, N	Diet	E, L	North America	Marine	Hobson et al. 1996
	C	Tracer	F, D	North America	Marine	Smith et al. 1996
	C, N	Diet	F, D	North America	Marine	Muir et al. 1995
Proboscidea	C, N	Diet	F, D	Africa	Terrestrial	Tieszen et al. 1989
	C	Diet	F, D	Asia	Terrestrial	Sukumar and Ramesh 1992
	C	Diet	F, D	Asia	Terrestrial	Sukumar et al. 1987
	C, N	Diet	F, D	Africa	Terrestrial	van der Merwe et al. 1990
	C	Diet	F, D	Africa	Terrestrial	van der Merwe et al. 1988
	C, N	Diet	F, D	Africa	Terrestrial	Vogel et al. 1990 <i>a</i>
	C, N	Diet	F, D	Africa	Terrestrial	Vogel et al. 1990 <i>b</i>
	C, N	Diet	F, D	Africa	Terrestrial	Koch et al. 1995
Hyracoidea	C	Diet	F, D	Africa	Terrestrial	DeNiro and Epstein 1978 <i>b</i>
Sirenia	C	Diet	F, L, D	North America	Marine	Ames et al. 1996
Perissodactyla	C	Climate	F, D	North America	Terrestrial	MacFadden and Cerling 1994
Artiodactyla	C, N	Diet	F, D	Africa	Terrestrial	Ambrose and Deniro 1986
	C, N	Climate	F, D	North America	Terrestrial	Bada et al. 1990
	C, N	Climate	F, D	North America	Terrestrial	Cormie and Schwarcz 1996
	C, N	Climate	F, D	North America	Terrestrial	Cormie and Schwarcz 1994
	C	Paleontology	F, D	North America	Terrestrial	Hobson and Schwarcz 1986

**Table A1** (concluded).

	C, N	Diet	F, D	Africa	Terrestrial	Thackeray et al. 1993
	C	Diet	F, D	Africa	Terrestrial	Vogel 1978
	C	Diet	F, D	Africa	Terrestrial	Tieszen et al. 1979
	C	Paleontology	F, D		Terrestrial	MacFadden 1997
	C	Tracer	F, D	North America	Terrestrial	Chisholm et al. 1986
Multiple <sup>c</sup>	C, N	Diet	F, D	Europe	Terrestrial	Bocherens et al. 1995
	C, N	Paleontology	F, D	Europe	Terrestrial	Bocherens et al. 1994
	C, N	Climate	F, D	Africa	Terrestrial	Heaton et al. 1986
	C	Diet	F, D	Africa	Terrestrial	Schoeninger and DeNiro 1982
	C	Paleontology	F, D	Africa	Terrestrial	Sillen 1988
<b>Birds and mammals</b>						
Multiple <sup>c</sup>	C, N	Method	E, L	North America	Terrestrial	DeNiro et al. 1985
	C, N	Food web	F, D	North America	Marine	Hobson and Welch 1992
	N	Pollution	F, D	North America	Marine	Jarman et al. 1997
	C, N	Pollution	F, D	North America	Marine	Jarman et al. 1996
	C, N	Food web	F, D	Antarctica	Marine	Rau et al. 1992
	C	Food web	F, D	North America	Marine	Schell and Ziemann 1989
	C, N	Diet	F, D		Marine and terrestrial	Schoeninger and Deniro 1984
	C, N	Diet	F, D	North America	Marine	Sydemann et al. 1997
	N	Food web	F, D	Africa	Terrestrial	Sealy et al. 1987

<sup>a</sup>C, carbon isotope ratios presented in the study; N, nitrogen isotope ratios presented in the study.

<sup>b</sup>B, field, laboratory, experimental, and descriptive; D, descriptive; E, experimental; F, field; L, laboratory.

<sup>c</sup>Study focused on more than one taxonomic order.

**Table A2.** Summary of data from the literature on stable carbon isotope values, stable nitrogen isotope values, diet, trophic chain, latitude, log body mass, and habitat moisture.

	Common name	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (‰)	$\delta^{15}\text{N}$ (‰)	Tissue	Diet <sup>a</sup>	Trophic chain <sup>b</sup>	Latitude <sup>c</sup>	Mass <sup>d</sup>	Habitat moisture <sup>e</sup>	Study
<b>Birds</b>										
Struthioniformes										
	<i>Struthio camelus</i>	Ostrich	-21.3	Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	33	4.92		Von Schirnding et al. 1982
Podicipediformes										
	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	Eared Grebe	-26.3	9.1	Bone	I	C <sub>3</sub>	36	2.47	Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984
	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>	Western Grebe	-18.6	14.2	Bone	V	M	36	3.17	Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984
Sphenisciformes										
	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>	King Penguin	-19.0	13.0	Bone	I	M	51	4.12	Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984
	<i>Pygoscelis papua</i>	Gentoo Penguin	-16.1	10.7	Bone	V	M	51	3.77	Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984
	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>	Adelie Penguin		9.5	Bone	I	M	77	3.69	Mizutani et al. 1986
				5.9	Muscle	I	M	65	3.69	Rau et al. 1992
	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>	Macaroni Penguin	-18.1	9.4	Bone	I	M	51	3.59	Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984
	<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>	Jackass Penguin		16.1	Muscle	I		34		Sealy et al. 1987
Procellariiformes										
	<i>Diomedea nigripes</i>	Black-footed Albatross	-18.2	14.4	Muscle	I	M	43	3.50	Gould et al. 1997 <sup>f</sup>
	<i>Diomedea immutabilis</i>	Laysan Albatross	-18.8	12.0	Muscle	I	M	43	3.48	Gould et al. 1997 <sup>f</sup>
	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	Southern Giant Fulmar		8.7	Muscle	V	M	65	3.66	Rau et al. 1992
	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Northern Fulmar		17.4	Bone	V	M	74	2.74	Hobson 1993 <sup>f</sup>
			-15.3	14.8	Bone	V	M	57	2.74	Thompson and Furness 1995 <sup>f</sup>
				15.3	Muscle	V	M	74	2.74	Hobson 1993 <sup>f</sup>
			-19.2	15.3	Muscle	V	M	74	2.74	Hobson and Welch 1992 <sup>f</sup>

Table A2 (continued).

<i>Fulmarus glacialisoides</i>	Antarctic Fulmar	-19.6	11.9	Bone	V	M	51	3.00	Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984
			6.7	Muscle	V	M	65	3.00	Rau et al. 1992
<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>	Antarctic Petrel		5.6	Muscle	V	M	65	2.88	Rau et al. 1992
<i>Daption capense</i>	Cape Petrel		6.5	Muscle	V	M	65	2.63	Rau et al. 1992
<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>	Snow Petrel		7.2	Muscle	V	M	65	2.43	Rau et al. 1992
<i>Pterodroma brevirostris</i>	Kerguelan Petrel		7.8	Muscle	V	M	65	2.55	Rau et al. 1992
<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>	Blue Petrel		6.3	Muscle	V	M	65	2.31	Rau et al. 1992
<i>Pachyptila vittata</i>	Antarctic Prion		6.4	Muscle	V	M	65	2.29	Rau et al. 1992
<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	Sooty Shearwater		15.8	Bone	I	M	53	2.90	Hobson et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>
		-20.1	9.2	Muscle	I	M	38	2.90	Minami et al. 1995 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Puffinus tenuirostris</i>	Short-tailed Shearwater	-23.0	8.0	Muscle	I	M	40	2.73	Minami et al. 1995 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	Wilson's Storm Petrel		8.3	Muscle	V	M	65	1.51	Rau et al. 1992 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	Leach's Storm Petrel		17.1	Bone	V	M	56	1.60	Hobson et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>
		-21.2	13.8	Bone	V	M	56	1.60	Hobson et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Oceanodroma furcata</i>	Fork-tailed Storm Petrel		17.9	Bone	V	M	53	1.74	Hobson et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>
			15.9	Muscle	V	M	53	1.74	Hobson et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>
Pelecaniformes									
<i>Phaethon lepturus</i>	White-tailed Tropicbird	-15.6		Muscle	V	M	18	2.52	Schaffner and Swart 1991
<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	Magnificent Frigatebird	-12.1	12.4	Bone	V	M	18	3.17	Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984
<i>Sula capensis</i>	Cape Gannett		13.7	Muscle	V	M	34	3.43	Sealy et al. 1987
<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>	Cape Cormorant		14.6	Muscle	V	M	34	3.08	Sealy et al. 1987
<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>	Pelagic Cormorant	-18.7	15.8	Muscle	V	M	55	3.27	Hobson et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	Brown Pelican	-14.5	17.9	Bone	V	M	36	3.54	Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984
Ciconiiformes									
<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Great Blue Heron	-14.0	15.7	Muscle	V	M	40	3.38	Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Black-Crowned Night Heron	-20.9	10.1	Bone	V	C <sub>3</sub>	36	2.95	Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984
Anseriformes									
<i>Chen caerulescens</i>	Snow Goose	-21.0	10.2	Muscle	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	29	3.42	Alisaukas and Hobson 1993 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Chen rossii</i>	Ross' Goose	-24.7	7.5	Muscle	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	65	3.20	Hobson et al. 1993 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Chloephaga picta</i>	Magellan Goose	-22.5	6.0	Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	51	3.44	Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984
<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Common Eider		15.7	Bone	I	M	75	3.32	Hobson 1993 <sup>f</sup>
			13.2	Muscle	I	M	75	3.32	Hobson 1993 <sup>f</sup>
		-20.3	8.1	Muscle	I	M	59	3.32	Broman et al. 1992 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Oldsquaw	-25.7		Muscle	I	M	70	2.94	Schell and Ziemann 1989
<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>	Surf Scoter		11.8	Bone	I	M	54	2.98	Hobson et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	White-winged Scoter		12.2	Bone	I	M	54	3.24	Hobson et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>
Falconiformes									
<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	Rough-legged Hawk	-16.9	6.8	Bone	V	C <sub>3</sub>	36	2.98	Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984
Gruiformes									
<i>Rallus longirostris</i>	Light-footed Clapper Rail	-18.4	17.9	Muscle	I	C <sub>3</sub>	33	2.47	Kwak and Zedler 1997
<i>Porzana carolina</i>	Sora	-24.4	12.1	Muscle	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	33	1.87	Kwak and Zedler 1997
Charadriiformes									
<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Pectoral Sandpiper	-27.9		Muscle	I	C <sub>3</sub>	70	1.91	Schell and Ziemann 1989
<i>Calidris pusilla</i>	Semipalmated Sandpiper	-26.1		Muscle	I	C <sub>3</sub>	70	1.50	Schell and Ziemann 1989

**Table A2** (continued).

<i>Phalaropus fulicaria</i>	Red Phalarope	-27.3		Muscle	I	C <sub>3</sub>	70	2.94		Schell and Ziemann 1989
<i>Larus canus</i>	Mew Gull		15.3	Muscle	V	M	55	2.61		Hobson et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Larus glaucescens</i>	Glaucois-winged Gull	-15.0		Bone	I	M	49	3.00		Hobson 1987 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Western Gull	-19.5	15.1	Muscle	I	M	55	3.00		Hobson 1993 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Larus hyberboreus</i>	Glaucois Gull	-15.1		Bone	V	M	37	3.00		Hobson 1987 <sup>f</sup>
			19.1	Bone	V	M	74	3.15		Hobson 1993 <sup>f</sup>
		-17.6	17.0	Muscle	V	M	74	3.15		Hobson and Welch 1992 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Black-legged Kittiwake		17.2	Bone	V	M	74	2.61		Hobson 1993 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Sterna elegans</i>	Elegant Tern	-18.8		Muscle	V	M	32	2.41		Schaffner and Swart 1991
<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Arctic Tern		5.9	Muscle	V	M	65	2.04		Rau et al. 1992
<i>Sterna vittata</i>	Antarctic Tern		5.4	Muscle	V	M	65	2.15		Rau et al. 1992
<i>Alle alle</i>	Dovekie		13.3	Bone	I	M	60	2.21		Hobson and Montevicchi 1991 <sup>f</sup>
			12.9	Muscle	I	M	74	2.21		Hobson 1993 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Uria aalge</i>	Common Murre		18.5	Bone	V	M	49	3.00		Hobson and Montevicchi 1991 <sup>f</sup>
		-18.1	15.3	Muscle	V	M	55	3.00		Hobson et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Thick-billed Murre		17.3	Bone	V	M	74	2.98		Hobson 1993 <sup>f</sup>
			15.8	Muscle	V	M	74	2.98		Hobson 1993 <sup>f</sup>
		-18.4	15.8	Muscle	V	M	74	2.98		Hobson and Welch 1992 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Pinguinus impennis</i>	Great Auk		15.8	Bone	V	M	49			Hobson and Montevicchi 1991 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Cephus grylle</i>	Black Guillemot		18.2	Bone	V	M	74	2.61		Hobson 1993 <sup>f</sup>
			15.4	Muscle	V	M	74	2.61		Hobson 1993 <sup>f</sup>
		-17.3	15.4	Muscle	V	M	74	2.61		Hobson and Welch 1992 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Cephus columba</i>	Pigeon Guillemot	-15.7	16.5	Muscle	V	M	48	2.69		Hobson et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>	Marbled Murrelet	-16.5	15.3	Muscle	V	M	48	2.35		Hobson et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Brachyramphus brevirostris</i>	Kittlitz's Murrelet		14.5	Muscle	I	M	59	2.35		Hobson et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Synthliboramphus antiquus</i>	Ancient Murrelet	-16.4	15.0	Muscle	I	M	49	2.31		Hobson et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Ptychoramphus aleuticus</i>	Cassin's Auklet		16.4	Bone	I	M	48	2.27		Hobson et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>
		-18.5	14.5	Muscle	I	M	48	2.27		Hobson et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Cyclorhynchus psittacula</i>	Parakeet Auklet		13.8	Muscle	I	M	55	2.42		Hobson et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Aethia cristatella</i>	Crested Auklet		12.5	Muscle	I	M	55	2.42		Hobson et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Cerorhinca monocerata</i>	Rhinoceros Auklet		17.6	Bone	V	M	48	2.72		Hobson et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>
		-17.3	15.9	Muscle	V	M	48	2.72		Hobson et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Fratercula corniculata</i>	Horned Puffin	-20.3	13.3	Muscle	V	M	55	2.79		Hobson et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Fratercula cirrhata</i>	Tufted Puffin	-18.5	14.7	Muscle	V	M	50	2.89		Hobson et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>
Strigiformes										
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl	-21.2	9.7	Bone	V	C <sub>3</sub>	36	2.73		Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984
<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>	Northern Saw- whet Owl	-18.9		Muscle	V	C <sub>3</sub>	54	1.88		Hobson and Sealy 1991 <sup>f</sup>
Passeriformes										
<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	Lapland Longspur	-27.0		Muscle	I	C <sub>3</sub>	70	2.94		Schell and Ziemann 1989
<b>Mammals</b>										
Insectivora										
<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	Hedgehog	-20.8	9.4	Bone	I	C <sub>3</sub>	49	2.84	Me	Bocherens et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>
Chiroptera										
<i>Macrotus californicus</i>	Leafnose bat	-19.6		Muscle	I	C <sub>3</sub>	29	1.08	Me	Herrera et al. 1993
<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	Big brown bat	-19.5		Muscle	I	C <sub>3</sub>	35	1.23	Me	Herrera et al. 1993
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	Pallid bat	-17.0		Muscle	I	C <sub>3</sub>	35	1.32	Me	Herrera et al. 1993



Table A2 (continued).

<i>Tadarida brasiliensis</i>	Mexican freetail bat	-19.7		Muscle	I	C <sub>3</sub>	26	1.06	Me	Herrera et al. 1993
Primates										
<i>Cercopithecus mitis</i>	Blue monkey	-19.4	5.9	Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	2	3.83	Me	Ambrose and DeNiro 1986 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Colobus guerza</i>	Black and white colobus	-18.8	5.6	Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	2	4.01	Me	Ambrose and DeNiro 1986 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Papio anubius</i>	Anubis baboon	-17.3	5.8	Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	2	4.25		Ambrose and DeNiro 1986 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Papio cynocephalus</i>	Chacma baboon	-19.3	6.1	Bone	O	C <sub>3</sub>	30	4.28	Me	Thackeray et al. 1996
Rodentia										
<i>Pedetes capensis</i>	Springhare		8.0	Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	34	3.49	Xe	Sealy et al. 1987
			8.8	Muscle	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	34	3.49	Xe	Sealy et al. 1987
<i>Neotoma lepida</i>	Wood rat	-14.4	5.8	Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	36	2.16	Xe	Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984
<i>Microtus townsendii</i>	Field vole	-23.2		Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	49	1.57	Me	Hobson and Schwarcz 1986
<i>Hystrix africaeaustralis</i>	Porcupine	-15.5	6.6	Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	2	4.29	Me	Ambrose and DeNiro 1986 <sup>f</sup>
Cetacea										
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Bottle-nosed dolphin	-12.5	16.2	Bone	V	M	36	5.34		Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984
<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	Common dolphin	-13.9	15.5	Bone	V	M	36	4.76		Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984
		-17.8	14.8	Muscle	V	M	49	4.76		Ostrom et al. 1993
<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>	White-beaked dolphin	-18.1	16.2	Muscle	V	M	49	5.26		Ostrom et al. 1993
<i>Lagenorhynchus obliquidens</i>	Pacific white-sided dolphin	-12.2	15.1	Bone	V	M	36	4.79		Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984
<i>Globicephala melas</i>	Long-finned pilot whale	-18.0	13.3	Muscle	I	M	41	6.44		Abend and Smith 1997
<i>Globicephala sieboldii</i>	Short-finned pilot whale	-12.1	16.3	Bone	I	M	36	6.44		Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984
<i>Lissodelphis borealis</i>	Northern right whale dolphin	-18.7	11.8	Muscle	V	M		4.90		Gould et al. 1997 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	Harbor porpoise	-11.6	16.6	Bone	V	M	36	4.78		Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984
<i>Phocoenoides dalli</i>	Dall's porpoise	-12.9	15.6	Bone	V	M	36	5.16		Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984
<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>	Beluga whale	-14.1	16.8	Bone	V	M	60	5.91		Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984
		-18.1	16.6	Bone	V	M	74	5.91		Hobson and Welch 1992 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Modon monoceros</i>	Narwhal	-18.0	15.8	Muscle	V	M	74	6.08		Hobson and Welch 1992 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Mesoplodon bidens</i>	Sowerby's beaked whale	-18.5	11.7	Muscle	I	M	49	6.53		Ostrom et al. 1993
<i>Kogia breviceps</i>	Pygmy sperm whale	-17.2	11.9	Muscle	I	M	49	5.56		Ostrom et al. 1993
<i>Eschrichtius robustus</i>	Gray whale	-13.3	13.0	Bone	I	M	36	7.45		Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984
<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Minke whale	-14.0	14.4	Bone	I	M	36	6.95		Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984
		-18.3	12.3	Muscle	I	M	49	6.95		Ostrom et al. 1993
<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Fin whale	-15.4	12.7	Bone	I	M	40	7.90		Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984
<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blue whale	-13.5	13.8	Bone	I	M	36	8.18		Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984
		-20.1	9.6	Muscle	I	M	49	8.18		Ostrom et al. 1993
<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Humpback whale	-18.7	13.4	Muscle	I	M	49	7.60		Ostrom et al. 1993
<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>	Bowhead whale	-15.9	14.5	Bone	I	M	65	8.04		Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984

**Table A2** (continued).

Carnivora											
<i>Alopex lagopus</i>	Arctic fox	-20.6	5.9	Bone	V	C <sub>3</sub>	60	3.54	Me	Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984	
		-17.7		Bone	V	C <sub>3</sub>	66	3.54	Me	Angerbjorn et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>	
<i>Canis aureus</i>	Golden jackal	-8.7	11.4	Bone	V	C <sub>4</sub>	2	0.97	Xe	Ambrose and DeNiro 1986 <sup>f</sup>	
<i>Canis lupus</i>	Wolf	-20.6	9.9	Bone	V	C <sub>3</sub>	65	4.53	Me	Bocherens et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>	
<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>	Bat-eared fox	-8.6	17.2	Bone	I	C <sub>4</sub>	2	3.62	Xe	Ambrose and DeNiro 1986 <sup>f</sup>	
<i>Ursus americanus</i>	Black bear	-20.8	4.9	Bone	O	C <sub>3</sub>	45	5.13	Me	Bocherens et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>	
<i>Ursus arctos</i>	Brown bear	-20.2	6.9	Bone	O	C <sub>3</sub>	41	5.25	Me	Bocherens et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>	
<i>Ursus maritimus</i>	Polar bear	-15.7		Bone	V	M	61	5.48		Ramsay and Hobson 1991 <sup>f</sup>	
		-18.0	21.1	Muscle	V	M	75	5.48		Hobson and Welch 1992 <sup>f</sup>	
<i>Procyon lotor</i>	Raccoon	-22.8	11.0	Bone	I	C <sub>3</sub>	45	3.77	Me	Bocherens et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>	
<i>Mustela vison</i>	Mink	-16.0	16.5	Muscle	V	C <sub>3</sub>	57	2.94	Me	Ben-David et al. 1997 <sup>b</sup>	
<i>Martes foina</i>	Stone marten	-20.7		Bone	V	C <sub>3</sub>	51	3.00	Me	Grupe and Kruger 1990 <sup>f</sup>	
<i>Martes martes</i>	Pine marten	-20.3		Bone	V	C <sub>3</sub>	51	3.14	Me	Grupe and Kruger 1990 <sup>f</sup>	
<i>Martes pennanti</i>	Fisher	-20.9	6.7	Bone	V	C <sub>3</sub>	55	3.43	Me	Bocherens et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>	
<i>Mellivora capensis</i>	Honey badger	-14.7	10.8	Bone	V	C <sub>4</sub>	2	3.89	Xe	Ambrose and DeNiro 1986 <sup>f</sup>	
<i>Enhydra lutris</i>	Sea otter	-9.8	14.2	Bone	I	M	40	2.43		Schoeninger and Deniro 1984	
<i>Genetta genetta</i>	Genette	-20.0	10.8	Bone	V	C <sub>3</sub>	65	3.21		Bocherens et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>	
<i>Ichneumia albicauda</i>	White-tailed mongoose	-10.1	12.7	Bone	I	C <sub>4</sub>	2	3.63	Xe	Ambrose and DeNiro 1986 <sup>f</sup>	
<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>	Spotted hyena	-6.9	11.2	Bone	V	C <sub>4</sub>	2	4.84	Xe	Ambrose and DeNiro 1986 <sup>f</sup>	
<i>Felis concolor</i>	Mountain lion	-17.6	7.6	Bone	V	C <sub>3</sub>	36	4.69		Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984	
<i>Lynx canadensis</i>	Bobcat	-15.8	10.0	Bone	V	C <sub>3</sub>	36	3.97		Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984	
<i>Lynx rufus</i>	Lynx	-22.4	6.2	Bone	V	C <sub>3</sub>	55	3.98	Me	Bocherens et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>	
<i>Panthera tigris</i>	Tiger	-18.0	8.1	Bone	V	C <sub>3</sub>	20	5.05	Me	Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984	
<i>Panthera pardus</i>	Leopard	-7.1	10.2	Bone	V	C <sub>4</sub>	2	4.63		Ambrose and DeNiro 1986 <sup>f</sup>	
<i>Panthera leo</i>	Lion	-5.7	9.8	Bone	V	C <sub>4</sub>	2	5.24	Xe	Ambrose and DeNiro 1986 <sup>f</sup>	
<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>	Cheetah	-12.7	10.1	Bone	V	C <sub>4</sub>	2	4.69	Xe	Ambrose and DeNiro 1986 <sup>f</sup>	
Pinnipedia											
<i>Callorhinus ursinus</i>	Northern fur seal	-18.9	16.6	Muscle	V	M	57	5.04		Hobson et al. 1997 <sup>c</sup>	
<i>Arctocephalus gazella</i>	Antarctic fur seal		7.8	Muscle	I	M	65	4.97		Rau et al. 1992	
<i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i>	Cape fur seal		17.6	Bone	V	M	34	5.03		Sealy et al. 1987	
			19.4	Muscle	V	M	34	5.03		Sealy et al. 1987	
<i>Eumetopias jubatus</i>	Northern sea lion	-18.2	17.5	Muscle	V	M	60	5.83		Hobson et al. 1997 <sup>c</sup>	
<i>Zalophus californianus</i>	California sea lion	-12.7	19.3	Bone	V	M	40	4.88		Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984	
<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>	Walrus	-13.9	12.3	Bone	I	M	60	6.03		Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984	
		-18.7	11.7	Muscle	I	M	65	6.03		Muir et al. 1995 <sup>f</sup>	
<i>Lobodon carcinophagus</i>	Crabeater seal		5.9	Muscle	I	M	65	5.36		Rau et al. 1992	
<i>Hydrurga leptonyx</i>	Leopard seal		7.7	Muscle	V	M	65	5.74		Rau et al. 1992	
<i>Ommatophoca rossii</i>	Ross' seal		9.1	Muscle	I	M	65	5.48		Rau et al. 1992	
<i>Erigonathus barbatus</i>	Bearded seal	-16.6	16.8	Muscle	I	M	74	5.39		Hobson and Welch 1992 <sup>f</sup>	

Table A2 (continued).

<i>Phoca groenlandica</i>	Harp seal	-15.2	15.6	Bone	V	M	50	5.19		Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984
<i>Phoca hispida</i>	Ringed seal	-16.2		Bone	V	M	63	5.01		Ramsay and Hobson 1991 <sup>f</sup>
		-17.3	17.3	Muscle	V	M	74	5.01		Hobson and Welch 1992 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Harbor seal	-12.3	17.6	Bone	V	M	36	5.04		Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984
		-17.6	18.6	Muscle	V	M	60	5.04		Hobson et al. 1997 <sup>cf</sup>
Proboscidea										
<i>Elephas maximus</i>	Asian elephant	-18.6		Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	18	6.40	Me	Sukumar and Ramesh 1992
<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	African elephant	-18.4	13.8	Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	0	6.40	Me	Tieszen et al. 1989
Hyracoidea										
<i>Procavia capensis</i>	Hyrax	-11.0		Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	3	3.51	Xe	DeNiro and Epstein 1978 <sup>b</sup>
<i>Heterohyrax brucei</i>	Gray hyrax	-20.0		Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	3	3.48	Xe	DeNiro and Epstein 1978 <sup>b</sup>
		-17.0	9.2	Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	2	3.48	Xe	Ambrose and DeNiro 1986 <sup>f</sup>
Perissodactyla										
<i>Equus zebra</i>	Mountain zebra	-11.8		Bone	H <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>4</sub>		5.46	Me	Vogel 1978
<i>Equus burchelli</i>	Burchell's zebra	-8.3	6.7	Bone	H <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>4</sub>	2	5.33	Me	Ambrose and DeNiro 1986 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>	White rhinoceros	-10.2		Bone	H <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>4</sub>		5.26	Me	Vogel 1978
Artiodactyla										
<i>Potamochoerus porcus</i>	Bushpig	-18.0	7.1	Bone	O	C <sub>3</sub>	2	4.74	Me	Ambrose and DeNiro 1986 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Hylochoerus meinertzhageni</i>	Giant forest hog	-24.4	4.3	Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	2	5.15	Me	Ambrose and DeNiro 1986 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Phacochoerus aethiopicus</i>	Warthog	-8.8	7.4	Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	2	4.83	Me	Ambrose and DeNiro 1986 <sup>f</sup>
		-10.6		Muscle	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	22	4.83	Me	Vogel 1978
<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	Hippopotamus	-8.4	8.3	Bone	H <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>4</sub>	2	6.15	Me	Ambrose and DeNiro 1986 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>	Mule deer	-22.0	5.8	Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	26	4.66	Me	Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984
		-20.6		Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	41	4.66	Me	Hobson and Schwarcz 1986
<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	White-tailed deer	-21.3	4.8	Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	55	4.76	Me	Cormie and Schwarcz 1994
<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>	Reindeer	-19.6	1.9	Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	65	5.03	Me	Bocherens et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>
		-28.7		Muscle	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	70	5.03	Me	Schell and Ziemann 1989
<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>	Giraffe	-20.0	6.9	Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	2	6.00	Xe	Ambrose and DeNiro 1986 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Tragelaphus angasi</i>	Nyala	-18.7		Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>		4.88		Vogel 1978
<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>	Bushbuck	-21.2	6.6	Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	2	4.70	Me	Ambrose and DeNiro 1986 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>	Greater kudu	-21.1		Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	18	5.29	Xe	Sillen 1988 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Tragelaphus imberbis</i>	Lesser kudu	-21.1		Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	25	5.13	Xe	Vogel 1978
<i>Tragelaphus euryceros</i>	Bongo	-25.0	5.2	Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	2	5.52	Me	Ambrose and DeNiro 1986 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>	Eland	-18.3	8.0	Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	2	5.56	Xe	Ambrose and DeNiro 1986 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Syncerus caffer</i>	Buffalo	-11.0	6.3	Bone	H <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>4</sub>	2	5.70	Me	Ambrose and DeNiro 1986 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Bison bison</i>	Bison	-20.5	4.4	Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	60	5.83	Xe	Bocherens et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>
		-19.3		Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	52	5.83	Xe	Chisholm et al. 1986
<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>	Duiker	-21.2		Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	14	4.21	Me	van der Merwe et al. 1988
		-19.8	5.9	Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	2	4.21	Me	Ambrose and DeNiro 1986 <sup>f</sup>

**Table A2** (concluded).

<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>	Waterbuck	-9.5	7.3	Bone	H <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>4</sub>	2	5.20	Me	Ambrose and DeNiro 1986 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Redunca arundinum</i>	Reedbuck	-6.4		Bone	H <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>4</sub>	18	4.65	Me	Sillen 1988 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Redunca redunca</i>	Bohor reedbuck	-8.9	7.1	Bone	H <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>4</sub>	2	4.60	Me	Ambrose and DeNiro 1986 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Redunca fulvorofula</i>	Mountain reedbuck	-8.0	6.4	Bone	H <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>4</sub>	2	4.49	Me	Ambrose and DeNiro 1986 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Hippotragus equinus</i>	Roan antelope	-13.6		Bone	H <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>4</sub>		5.40		Vogel 1978
<i>Oryx gazella</i>	Gemsbok	-11.5		Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	22	5.32	Xe	Vogel 1978
		-12.1		Muscle	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	22	5.32	Xe	Vogel 1978
<i>Damaliscus dorcas</i>	Bontebok	-8.0		Bone	H <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>4</sub>		4.79	Xe	Vogel 1978
<i>Damaliscus lunatus</i>	Topi	-6.8		Bone	H <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>4</sub>	25	5.11		van der Merwe et al. 1988
<i>Alcephalus buselaphalus</i>	Hartebeest	-9.2		Bone	H <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>4</sub>	34	5.13	Me	Vogel 1978
		-10.5		Muscle	H <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>4</sub>	34	5.13	Me	Vogel 1978
<i>Sigmoceros lichtensteinii</i>	Lichtenstein's hartebeest	-6.5		Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	14	5.24	Me	van der Merwe et al. 1988
<i>Connochaetes gnou</i>	Black wildebeest	-7.3		Bone	H <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>4</sub>	27	5.26	Xe	van der Merwe et al. 1988
<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>	Blue wildebeest	-6.9	7.9	Bone	H <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>4</sub>	27	5.27	Xe	Ambrose and DeNiro 1986 <sup>f</sup>
		-9.0		Bone	H <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>4</sub>		5.27	Xe	Vogel 1978
<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>	Klipspringer	-18.8	10.0	Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	2	4.08	Xe	Ambrose and DeNiro 1986 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Ourebia ourebi</i>	Oribi	-8.2		Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>		4.10		Vogel 1978
<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>	Steenbok		6.1	Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>		4.05	Xe	Sealy et al. 1987
		-17.6	7.1	Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	2	4.05	Xe	Ambrose and DeNiro 1986 <sup>f</sup>
			5.7	Muscle	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>		4.05	Xe	Sealy et al. 1987
<i>Raphicerus melanotis</i>	Cape grysbok	-23.1		Bone	H <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>4</sub>		4.02	Xe	Vogel 1978
<i>Madoqua kirki</i>	Kirk's dik dik	-18.9	9.4	Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	2	4.74	Xe	Ambrose and DeNiro 1986 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>	Impala	-9.4	8.0	Bone	H <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>4</sub>	2	4.70	Me	Ambrose and DeNiro 1986 <sup>f</sup>
		-15.5		Muscle	H <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>4</sub>	25	4.70	Me	Vogel 1978
<i>Gazella thomsoni</i>	Thompson's gazelle	-12.0	9.7	Bone	H <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>4</sub>	2	4.34	Xe	Ambrose and DeNiro 1986 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Gazella granti</i>	Grant's gazelle	-18.2	8.9	Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	2	4.70	Xe	Ambrose and DeNiro 1986 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>	Springbok		15.9	Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>		4.59	Xe	Sealy et al. 1987
		-18.1		Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	34	4.59	Xe	Vogel 1978
			15.6	Muscle	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>		4.59	Xe	Sealy et al. 1987
<i>Rupicapra rupicapra</i>	Chamois	-20.4	2.6	Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	43	4.18	Me	Bocherens et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>
<i>Ovibus moschatus</i>	Muskox	-20.6	5.9	Bone	H <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	65	2.32	Me	Bocherens et al. 1994 <sup>f</sup>

<sup>a</sup>H<sub>3</sub>, herbivores that eat C<sub>3</sub> plants; H<sub>4</sub>, herbivores that eat C<sub>4</sub> plants; V, carnivores that eat vertebrates; I, carnivores that eat invertebrates; O, omnivores that eat both plants and animals.

<sup>b</sup>Trophic chain on which the species relies: C<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>4</sub>, or marine (M).

<sup>c</sup>When two values are given for latitude, the first was used to relate  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values of bone and the second to relate  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values of muscle. Units are degrees of latitude.

<sup>d</sup>Log body mass.

<sup>e</sup>Estimated for terrestrial mammals only: Xe, species uses xeric habitats; Me, species uses mesic habitats.

<sup>f</sup>Lipids were extracted from sample, otherwise no treatment of lipids was indicated in the Methods.