



## What coyotes and bobcats might have in common with jackals and caracals

Learning how coyotes and bobcats live together in Texas can teach us a lot about local predators.

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[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/342786137\\_Abiotic\\_variables\\_influencing\\_the\\_nocturnal\\_movements\\_of\\_bobcats\\_and\\_coyotes](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/342786137_Abiotic_variables_influencing_the_nocturnal_movements_of_bobcats_and_coyotes)



*Predators in the United States can teach us a lot about local animals.*

**P**redators hold great fascination for people. As the populations of large predators decline, they leave a gap for small- to medium-sized predators to proliferate. Farmers and conservationists are trying to understand how the changed predator communities are structured,

and why they are structured the way they are.

A UNISA researcher, working with colleagues in Texas, USA, has been studying the interactions between coyotes and bobcats in East Texas as part of a long-term project. These two predators tend to live in the

same regions and prey on the same species.

“The question is, how do these predators survive together?” says Dr Haemish Melville.

Where coyotes and bobcats occur together, they tend to be active at different times of night. Coyotes are influenced in their movements by an increase in lunar light, but bobcats are not.

“Clearly, despite bobcats and coyotes occupying the same areas in East Texas and eating the same things, they are able to survive together because they respond differently to a variety of abiotic factors.”

In South Africa, we have similar predator groupings, including black-backed jackals and caracals, which live together and hunt similar prey.

“Medium-sized predators can live together if they can alter their behaviour so that they avoid one another. It is essential that we understand how these species respond to one another and to their environment.”



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