

On the morphology of the brown bear (*ursus arctos arctos*) liver.

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The diet of brown bear, in some areas, is composed by vegetables and mainly by fruits. The liver morphology has been studied by using two brown bears, coming from Slovenia. Bear 1 was three years old and weighed 80 kg, bear 2 aged two years with 48 kg of body weight. After surgical removal of all abdominal viscera included diaphragm, the weight of each liver, related to body weight of bear 1 and bear 2 was respectively 2.2% and 1.7%. Upon the surface, liver was characterised by deep fissures which divided the organ into 6 lobes. In bear 1 the following lobes with relative weights were observed: *lobus hepatis sinister lateralis* (34%), *lobus hepatis sinister medialis* (10%), *lobus quadratus* (8%), *lobus hepatis dexter medialis* (15%), *lobus hepatis dexter lateralis* (22%) and *Lobus caudatus* (6%). The last lobe was clearly divided in *processus papillaris* (4%) and *processus caudatus* (6%). Gall bladder was lodged in a deep fossa on the under surface between *L. quadratus* and *L. b. dexter medialis*. *Hepatogastrium* and *hepatoduodenale* ligaments were very broad and fibrous and they were attached to the medial margin. On dorsal border of *l. b. sinister lateralis* a large zone (14% of the lobe surface) was connected to diaphragm. The profound lobular separation observed in bear liver, may be due to great distension of the stomach and to the considerable flexibility of the vertebral column.