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**Female reproductive competition explains variation in prenatal investment in wild
banded mongooses**

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Supplementary Information

Table S1: Factors affecting prenatal investment

Model terms	Fetus cross-sectional area (fetus size)				Number of fetuses			Total prenatal investment (fetus size x number of fetuses)					
	Effect size ± SE	χ^2	<i>P</i>		Effect size ± SE	χ^2	<i>P</i>	Effect size ± SE	χ^2	<i>P</i>			
Female age (months)	-0.12 ± 0.38	0.10	0.75		0.12 ± 0.038	10.36	0.0013	1.8 ± 1.5	1.34	0.25			
Female age ² (months)	-0.0018 ± 0.0042	0.087	0.77		-0.053 ± 0.025	4.81	0.028	0.021 ± 0.016	1.56	0.21			
Female weight (g)	0.30 ± 0.10				0.036 ± 0.033	1.19	0.27	0.58 ± 0.16	12.60	<0.001			
Rainfall during pregnancy (ml)	1.81 ± 0.70				-0.0079 ± 0.031	0.068	0.80	-0.68 ± 0.85	0.64	0.42			
Number of females	-53 ± 57				-0.0094 ± 0.031	0.09	0.76	38 ± 15	5.65	0.017			
Female weight x number of females	-0.029 ± 0.014	4.23	0.040										
Total rainfall x number of females	-0.24 ± 0.11	4.91	0.027										
Group size	1.8 ± 2.6	0.089	0.77		0.0012 ± 0.03	0.0015	0.97	-9.9 ± 10	0.85	0.36			
Fetus age (days)	-45 ± 20												
Fetus age ² (days)	0.64 ± 0.29												
Sample	360 ultrasounds from 59 females in 41 litters from 8 groups.				361 observations from 127 females in 130 litters from 11 groups			360 ultrasounds from 59 females in 41 litters from 8 groups.					

Random effects: female ID, litter ID and group ID. Model terms were scaled in GLMM analysis on number of fetuses.

Table S2: Within- and between- female variation in fetus size

Model terms	Effect size	±	SE	χ^2	<i>P</i>
Female age (months)	0.78	±	0.35	0.045	0.83
Female age ² (months)	0.00061	±	0.0041	0.021	0.89
Female weight at conception (g)	0.064	±	0.043	2.00	0.16
Rainfall during pregnancy (ml)	-0.094	±	0.23	0.17	0.68
Within-female effects	12.24	±	5.63	4.51	0.034
Between-female effects	9.55	±	4.76	3.38	0.066
Fetus age (days)	2.88	±	1.20		
Fetus age ² (days)	-0.048	±	0.093		
Sample	360 ultrasounds from 59 females in 41 litters from 8 groups.				

Random effects: female ID, litter ID and group ID.

Table S3: Consequences of prenatal investment – female reproductive success

Model terms	Number of emergent pups assigned to female				Proportion of pups in a group litter assigned to female			
	Effect size ± SE		χ^2	<i>P</i>	Effect size ± SE		χ^2	<i>P</i>
Mean fetus size (mm ²)	0.0022	± 0.0017	1.66	0.20				
Relative fetus size					0.0023	± 0.0022	1.14	0.29
Number of fetuses	0.28	± 0.12	5.44	0.020				
Fetus age (days)	0.05	± 0.03			0.0025	± 0.0017		
Sample	153 observations from 78 females in 51 litters from 10 groups.				153 observations from 78 females in 51 litters from 10 groups.			

Random effects: female ID, litter ID and group ID.

Table S4: Consequences of prenatal investment – Pup survival and growth to independence

Model terms	Pup survival to 3 months					Pup growth (age<=90 days)				
	Effect size ± SE			χ^2	<i>P</i>	Effect size ± SE			χ^2	<i>P</i>
Mean fetus size (mm ²)	0.0014	±	0.0041	0.12	0.72	0.04	±	0.06	0.34	0.56
Relative fetus size (mm ²)	0.0063	±	0.0023	1.09	0.30					
Number of fetuses	0.02	±	0.27	0.0058	0.94	-7.0	±	5.5	1.59	0.21
Total number of pups in a group litter	-0.05	±	0.10	0.23	0.63	-0.94	±	1.55	0.37	0.54
Sex of pup						9.68	±	10.30	0.87	0.35
Pup age (days)						4.0	±	1.1		
Fetus age (days)	0.02	±	0.06			4.1	±	1.0		
Sample	131 pups from 29 litters from 8 groups.					116 pups from 26 litters from 8 groups.				

Random effects: litter ID and group ID.

Table S5: Consequences of prenatal investment– female survival

Female post-reproductive survival (months). Cox regression with backward selection of terms (Wald).

Model terms	Effect size	±	SE	Wald χ^2	P
Number of females	- 0.081	±	0.0052	2.23	0.14
Total prenatal investment	-0.001	±	0.0001	6.57	0.010
Number of fetuses	-0.009	±	0.121	0.006	0.94
Mean fetus size (mm²)	-0.005	±	0.001	12.68	<0.001
Relative fetus size (mm ²)	0.001	±	0.003	0.16	0.69
Sample	109 females in 47 litters from 10 groups.				

Table S6: Consequences of prenatal investment – female participation in next litter (y/n)

Model terms	Effect size	±	SE	χ^2	P
Female age (months)	-0.01	±	0.02	0.17	0.68
Female age ² (months)	-0.0015	±	0.0029	0.28	0.60
Female weight at conception (g)	0	±	0.0031	0.012	0.91
Number of females	0.19	±	0.48	0.16	0.69
Mean fetus size (mm ²)	-0.0012	±	0.0072	0.030	0.86
Number of fetuses	-0.87	±	0.52	3.50	0.061
Fetus age (days)	0.06	±	0.14		
Sample	105 observations from 46 females in 34 litters from 7 groups.				

Random effects: female ID, litter ID and group ID.