



**SINA**

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**Stable Isotope Network Austria**

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**Network Meeting**

**Tulln/Donau, November 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> 2015**

**Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH  
Health and Environment Department**

**University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences  
Department of Chemistry (VIRIS Lab)**

Austrian Institute of Technology and University of  
Natural Resources and Life Sciences

## **14<sup>th</sup> Stable Isotope Network Austria Meeting**

Tulln/Donau 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> November 2015

### **PROGRAM AND ABSTRACT VOLUME**

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## 20 Poster Presentation

### ORIGIN OF WOODCOCKS (*SCOLOPAX RUSTICOLA*) HUNTED IN AUSTRIA

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The woodcock in the EU is a protected species. Still, in several countries, among them Austria, its hunt is allowed. EU regulations, however, request the respective countries to protect their native woodcock population and to prove that the hunted woodcocks are alien migrants and not native ones.

For this purpose primary feathers of hunted woodcocks in Lower Austria have been collected and measured for their stable isotope signature. From the condition of the feathers juvenile and adult individuals are distinguished.

Expected are differences in isotope pattern between juvenile and adult woodcocks, as adult woodcocks have their moult in winter and thus report patterns representing the conditions in the wintering areas. Juvenile woodcocks report the conditions of the breeding sites in summer.

Preliminary results show the expected differences between juvenile and adult individuals. At least three different origins of the juvenile individuals are identified and at least two different ones for the adult ones. Furthermore there is evidence that woodcocks might not have a very high site-fidelity.