

# Transition to lead free bullets in hunting - Status of Science and Policy proceedings in Germany

Carl Gremse  
Siegfried Rieger



**International symposium  
on lead poisoning**

**28 September 2015**

**Annecy, Haute-Savoie, France**

**gypaète barbu**

*Life GypHelp*






# HNE Eberswalde

Hochschule für nachhaltige Entwicklung (FH)





# Health Risks from Lead-Based Ammunition in the Environment

*Environ Health Perspect* 121:A178-A179  
(2013).  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1289/ehp.1306945>  
[online 01 June 2013]



Group of Scientists, 2014. Wildlife and Human Health Risks from Lead-Based Ammunition in Europe: A Consensus Statement by Scientists. Available from:  
<http://www.zoo.cam.ac.uk/leadammunitionstatement/>



# Studies done in Germany

RAPTORS

GAME MEAT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

SAFETY ASPECTS (RICOCHETS)

TERMINAL BALLISTICS OF HUNTING  
BULLETS

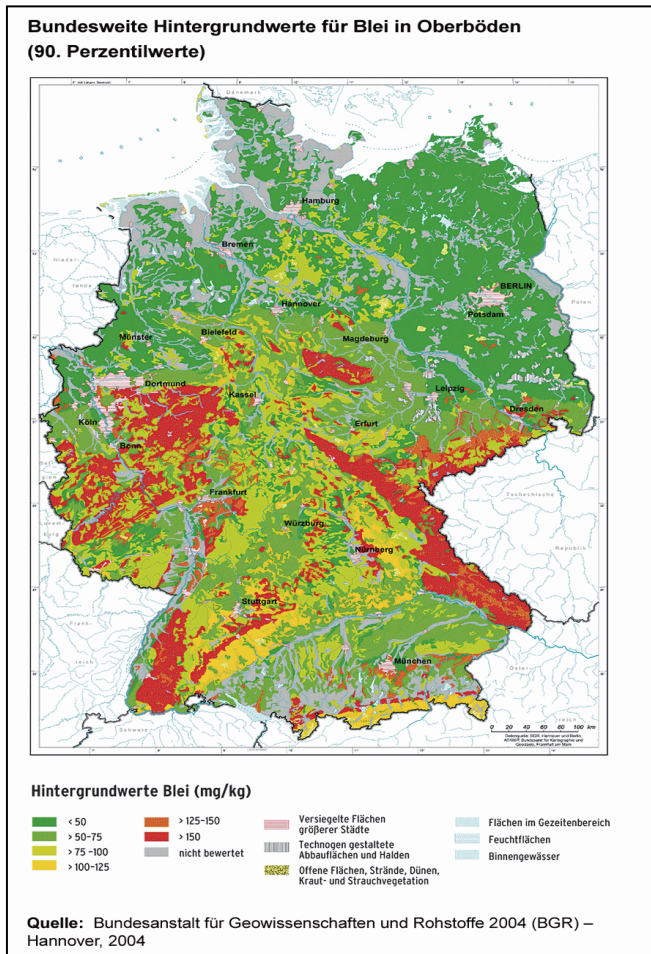
# Poisoning of raptors – IZW BERLIN



Lead from hunting bullets main source of poisoning in white tailed eagles in Germany – the main anthropogenic factor impeding the population.



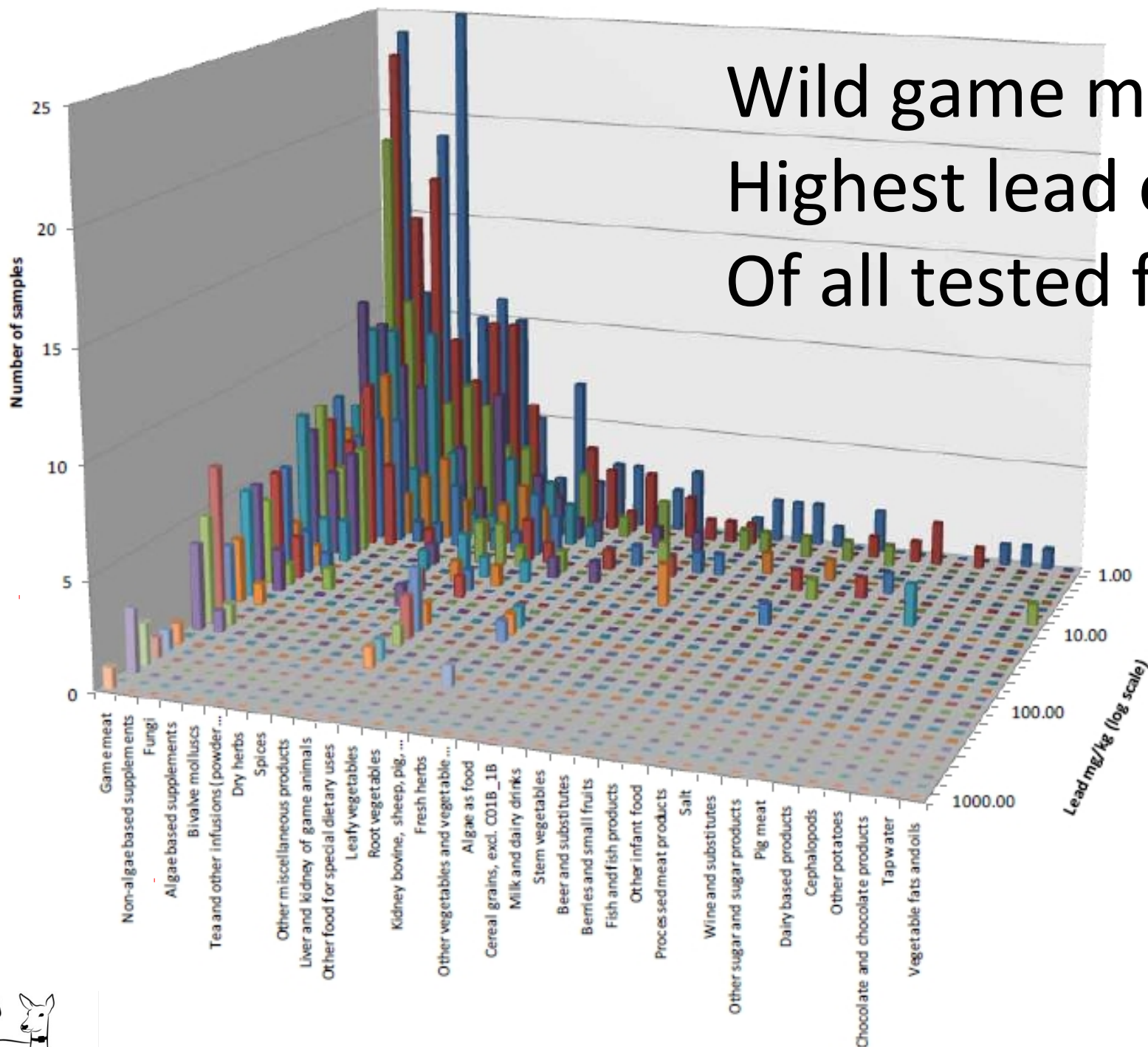
# Lead in Game Meat



Lead from hunting bullets main source lead found in Game Meat.

Introduction can be reduced by using nonlead bullets.

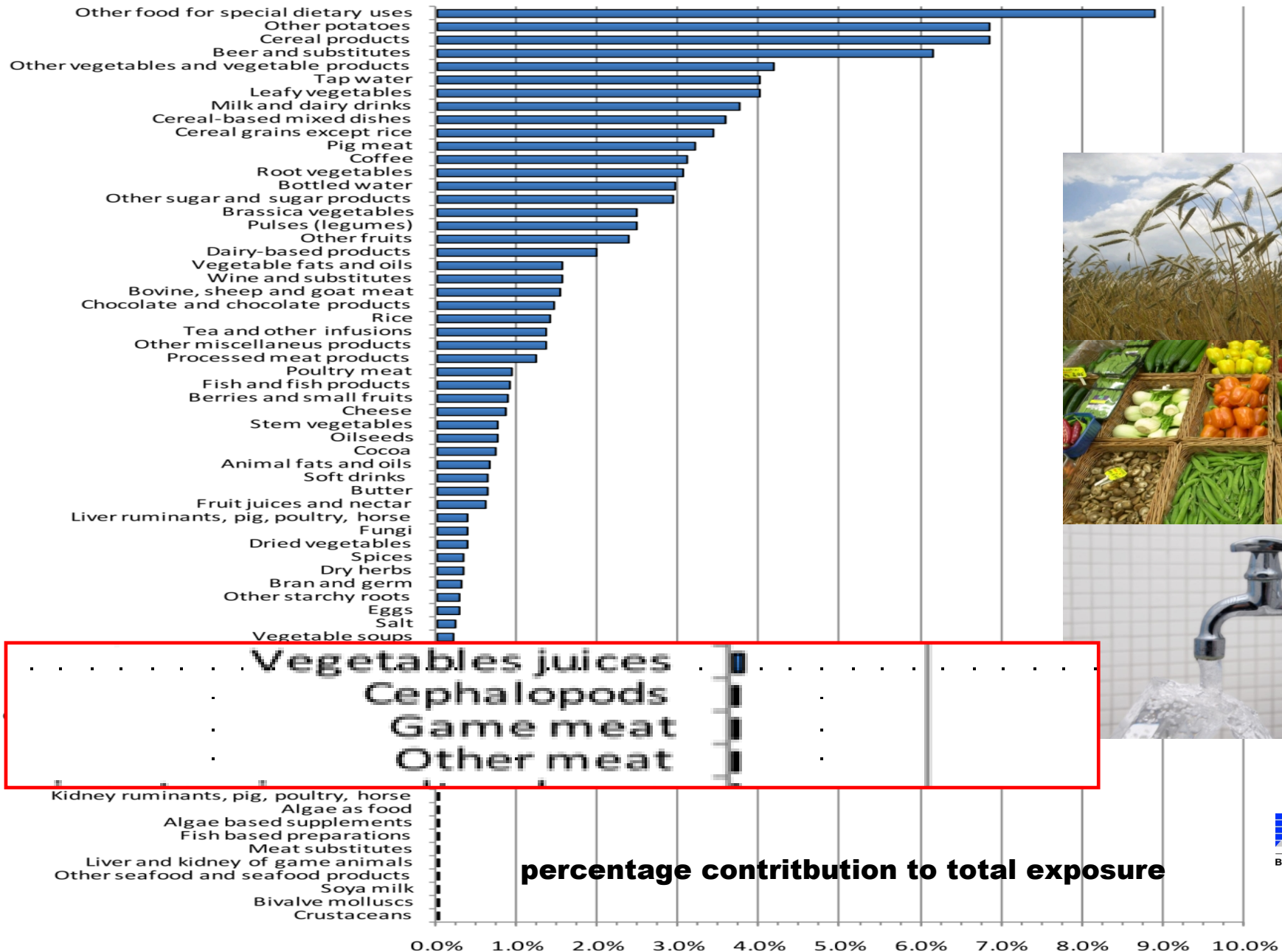
Wild game meat –  
Highest lead content  
Of all tested food



**EFSA, 2010 – Lead Content**



# EFSA, 2010 – Exposure to Lead from Food







Bildquelle: Blaser Jagdwaffen / FWWJ

Hunting bullets are dangerous – User Caution advised. Unaffected by Bullet material.

# Field Studies



# Field Studies

11.371  
Protocols

6 Species

68 Bullet types

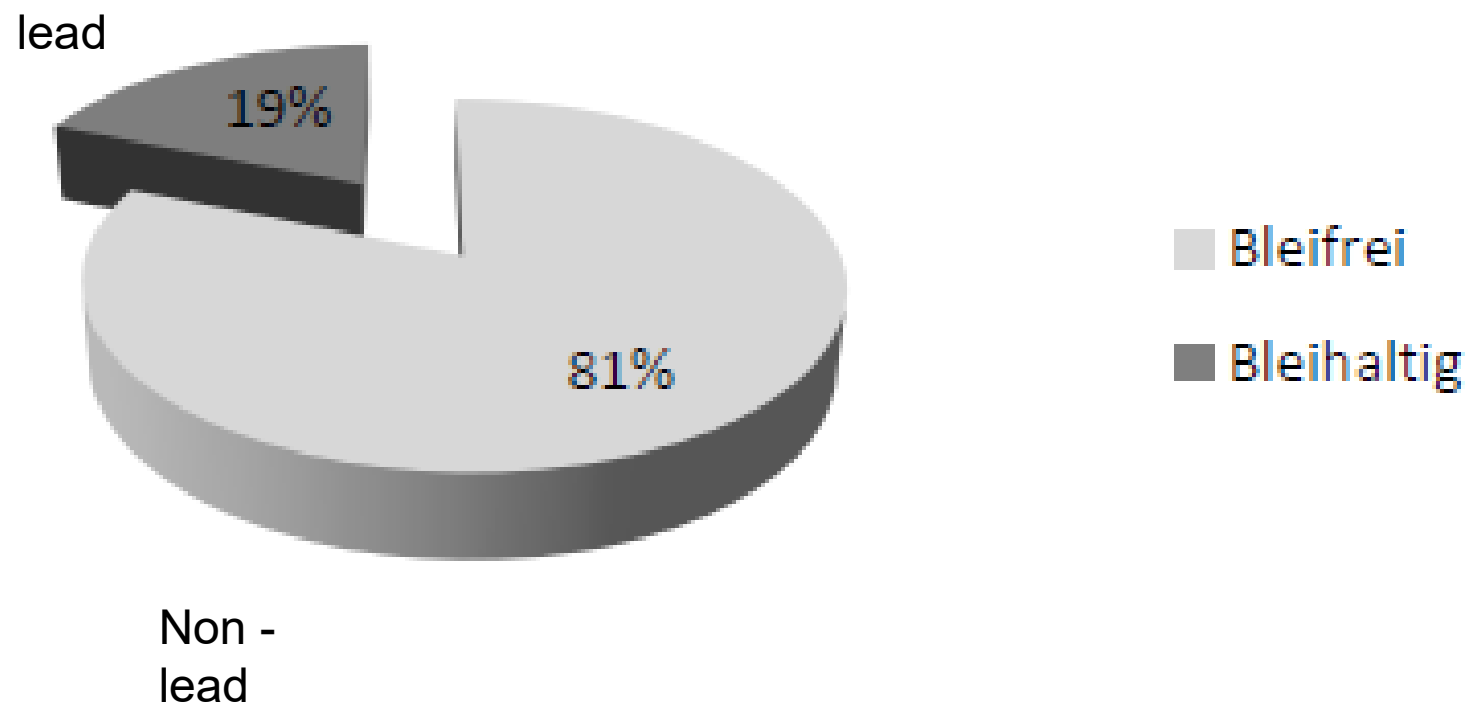
...

Ballistische Daten: Patrone/Kal.: _____ Geschossart: _____ Gewicht (g): _____ Lauflänge (mm): _____ Industriell geladen: <input type="checkbox"/> Fert. Zeich.: _____ Gewerbl. wiedergeladen: <input type="checkbox"/> Selbst wiedergeladen: <input type="checkbox"/> V <sub>0</sub> : _____ m/s		FWWJ Reg. Nr.: _____		Abschlussbericht Name des Erlegers: _____ Strasse: _____ Wohnort: _____ Telefonnummer: _____ - _____ Jagdbezirk/ OBF Nr.: _____		Posteingang (nicht ausfüllen) Fachgebiet Wildbiologie, Wildtiermanagement & Jagdbetriebskunde (FWWJ) Prof. Dr. S. Rieger Carl Gremse, Dipl. Forstw. Hochschule für nachhaltige Entwicklung Eberswalde (HNEE)	
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Nein ☐'. Below this, it says 'Schusskanal gradförmig? Ja ☐ Nein

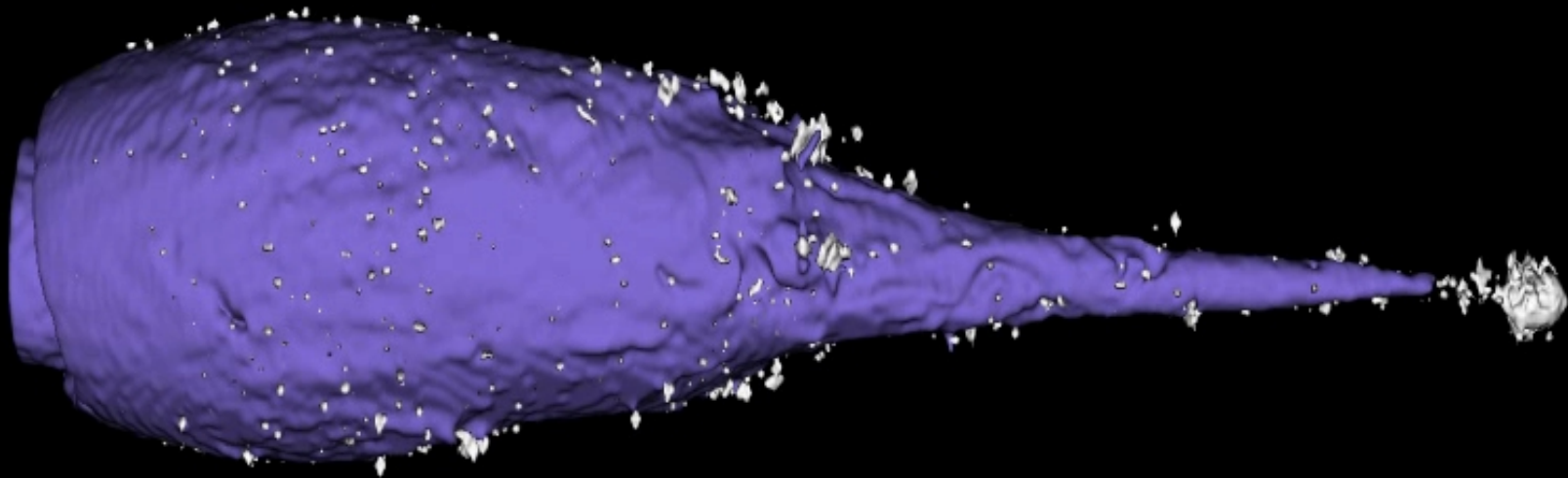
Datum: ____ . ____ . 20 ____		Uhrzeit: ____ : ____		Jagdart: _____		Ansitz: <input type="checkbox"/>		Pirsch: <input type="checkbox"/>		Bewegungsjagd: <input type="checkbox"/>		Nachsuche: <input type="checkbox"/>			
beschossenes Wild				Aufbrechergewicht				Schussentfernung				Fluchstrecke			
Rehwild		001		bis 10kg		007		unter 50m		013		am Anschuss		019	
Rotwild		002		11-20kg		008		51-100m		014		bis 15m		020	
Schwarzwild		003		21-45kg		009		101-150m		015		16-40m		021	
Damwild		004		46-75kg		010		151-200m		016		41-75m		022	
Sikawild		005		76-120kg		011		201-250m		017		76-150m		023	
Muffelwild		006		>120kg		kg 012		>250m		m 018		>150m		m 024	
Ausschussgröße (s. u.)				Schusszeichen (Anschuss)				Verletzte Organe				Organverletzungen			
ohne		025		Herzschweiß		031		Herz		038		normal		044	
bis 20mm		026		Lungenschweiß		032		Lunge		039		stark beschädigt		045	
21-35mm		027		Leberschweiß		033		Leber		040		nicht verwendbar		046	
36-60mm		028		Pansen/Gescheide		034		Niere		041		Wildbretzustand			
61-100mm		029		Schnitthaare		035		Gr. Gescheide		042		gut		047	
>100mm		mm 030		Knochensplittter		036		Kl. Gescheide		043		befriedigend		048	
Bitte Maßband mitführen!				Wildbret								mangelhaft 049			
Verhalten des Wildes vor dem Schuss				Verhalten des Wildes nach dem Schuss				Angaben zur Flucht u. Schweißfährte				Sonstige Angaben 1			
ziehend		050		nicht gezeichnet		055		kein Schweiß		061		Hämatome / Blutergüsse		067	
flüchtig		051		gezeichnet		056		wenig Schweiß		062		Rückgratstreffer		068	
äsend / vertraut		052		nicht beobachtet		057		reichlich Schweiß		063		Rippentreffer		069	
alarmiert / gestreßt		053		bleibt stehen		058		regelmäßig Schweiß		064		sonst. Knochentreffer		070	
vor dem Hund		054		taumelt/bricht zusammen		059		Nachsuche erfolgreich		065		Schuss d. Hindernis		071	
				Flucht		060		Nachsuche ohne Erfolg		066		Entfern. Hind. zum Ziel		m	
Sonstige Angaben 2:															
Gesamtbeurteilung (abschließend bitte unbedingt ausfüllen!)															
<input type="checkbox"/> sehr gut		<input type="checkbox"/> gut		<input type="checkbox"/> befriedigend		<input type="checkbox"/> schlecht		<input type="checkbox"/> sehr schlecht		Berichtersteller hat das Wild aus der Decke geschlagen beurteilt					
										Ja <input type="checkbox"/> nein <input type="checkbox"/>					

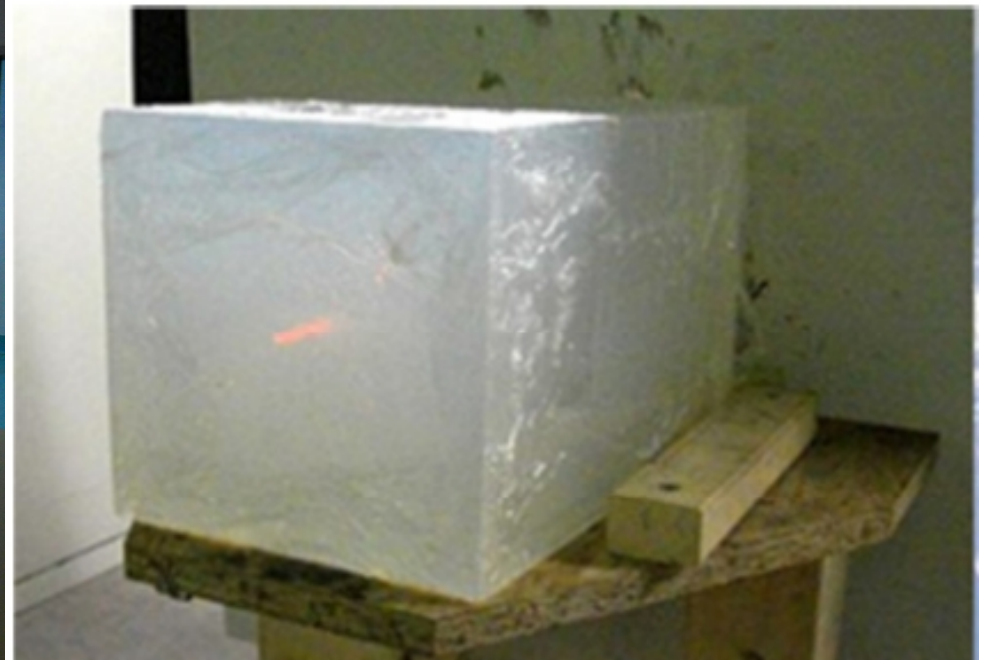
## Abschüsse nach Materialgruppe, n=11278



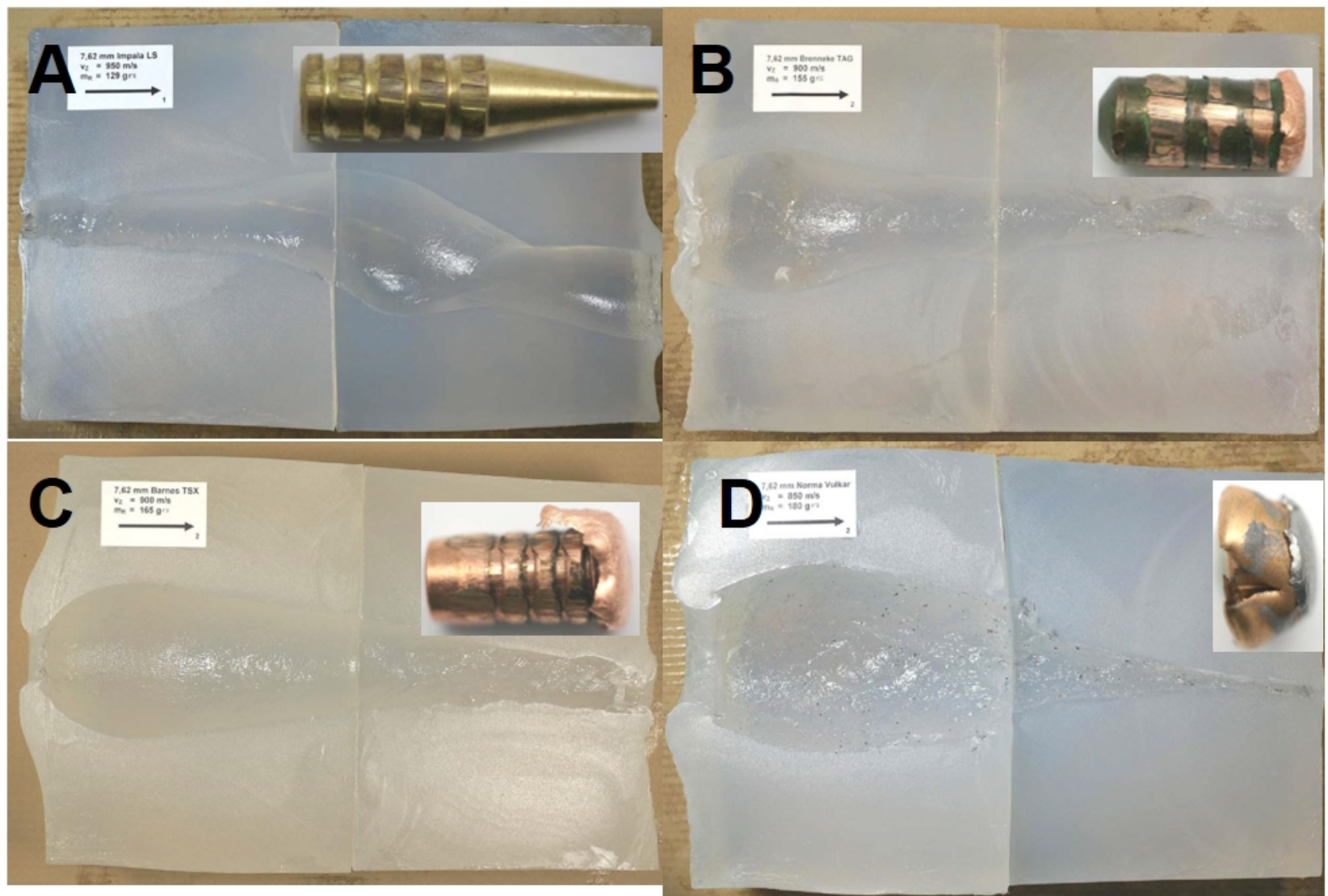


# Laboratory Research











7,62 mm FmJ  
 $v_z = 600 \text{ m/s}$



2

1

2

3

4

5

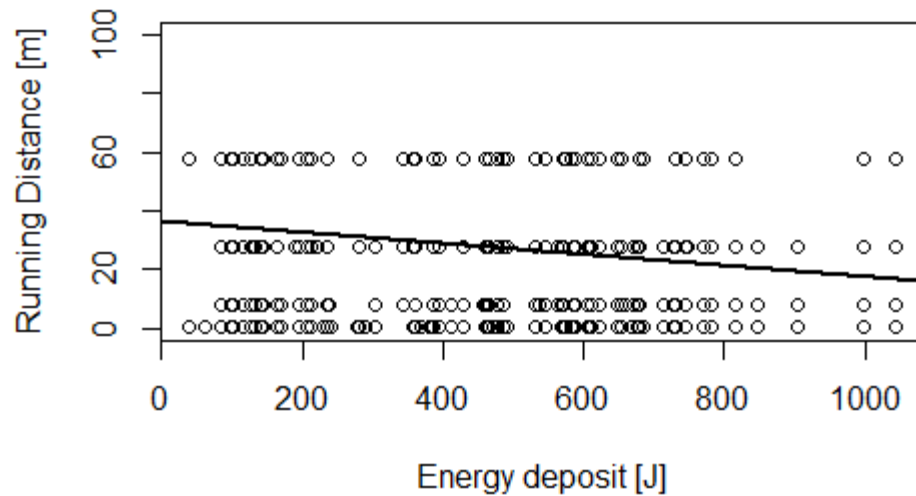
6

7

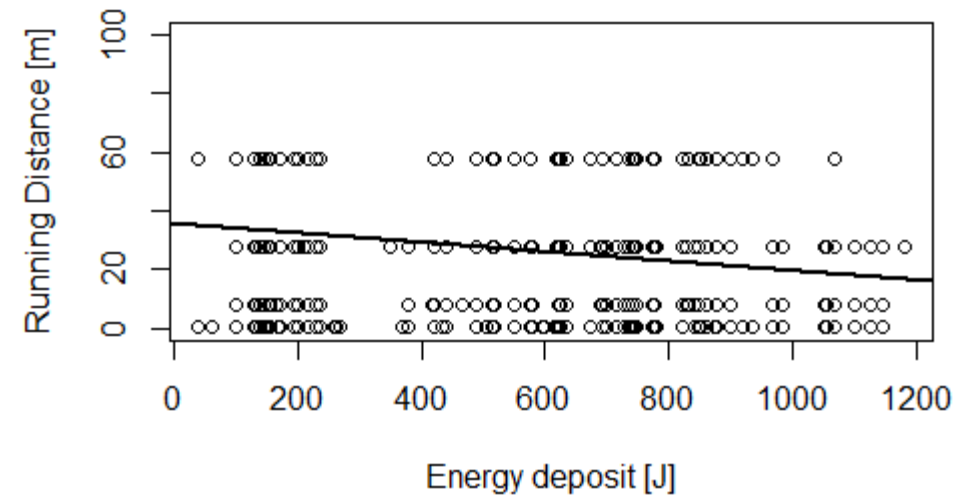
8



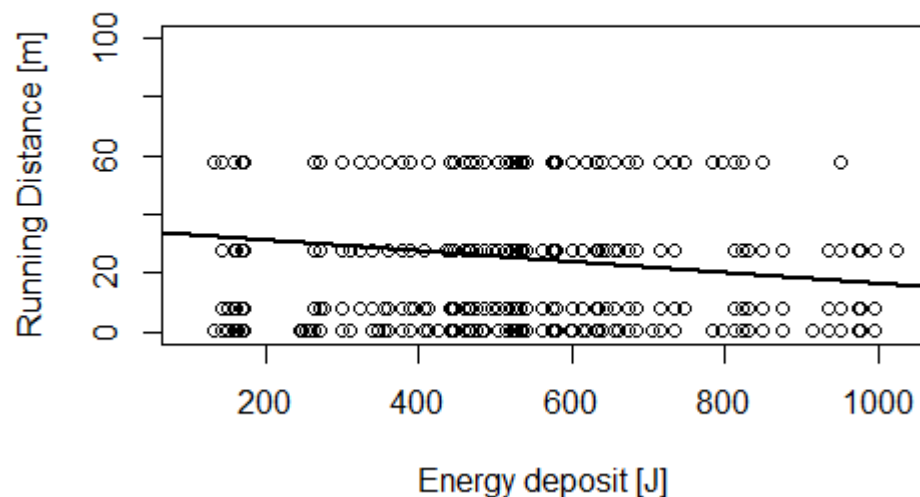
**Segment 1 (0-5 cm)**



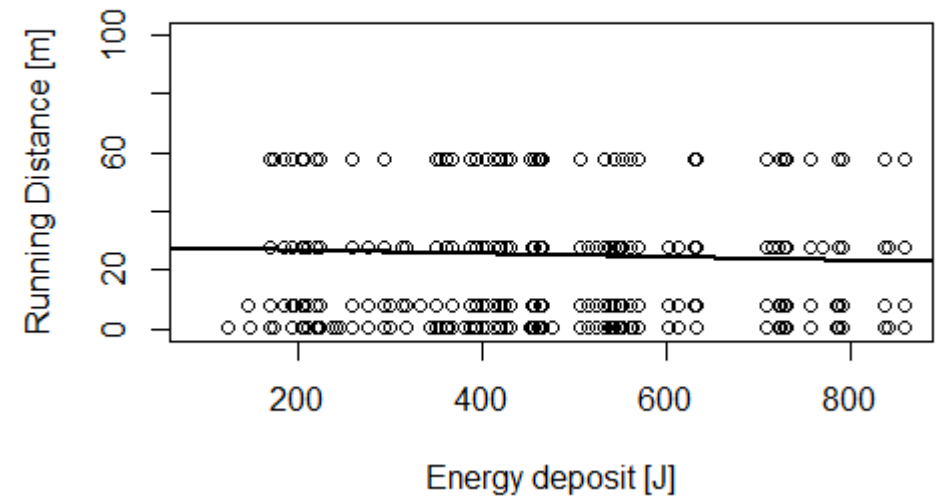
**Segment 2 (5-10 cm)**



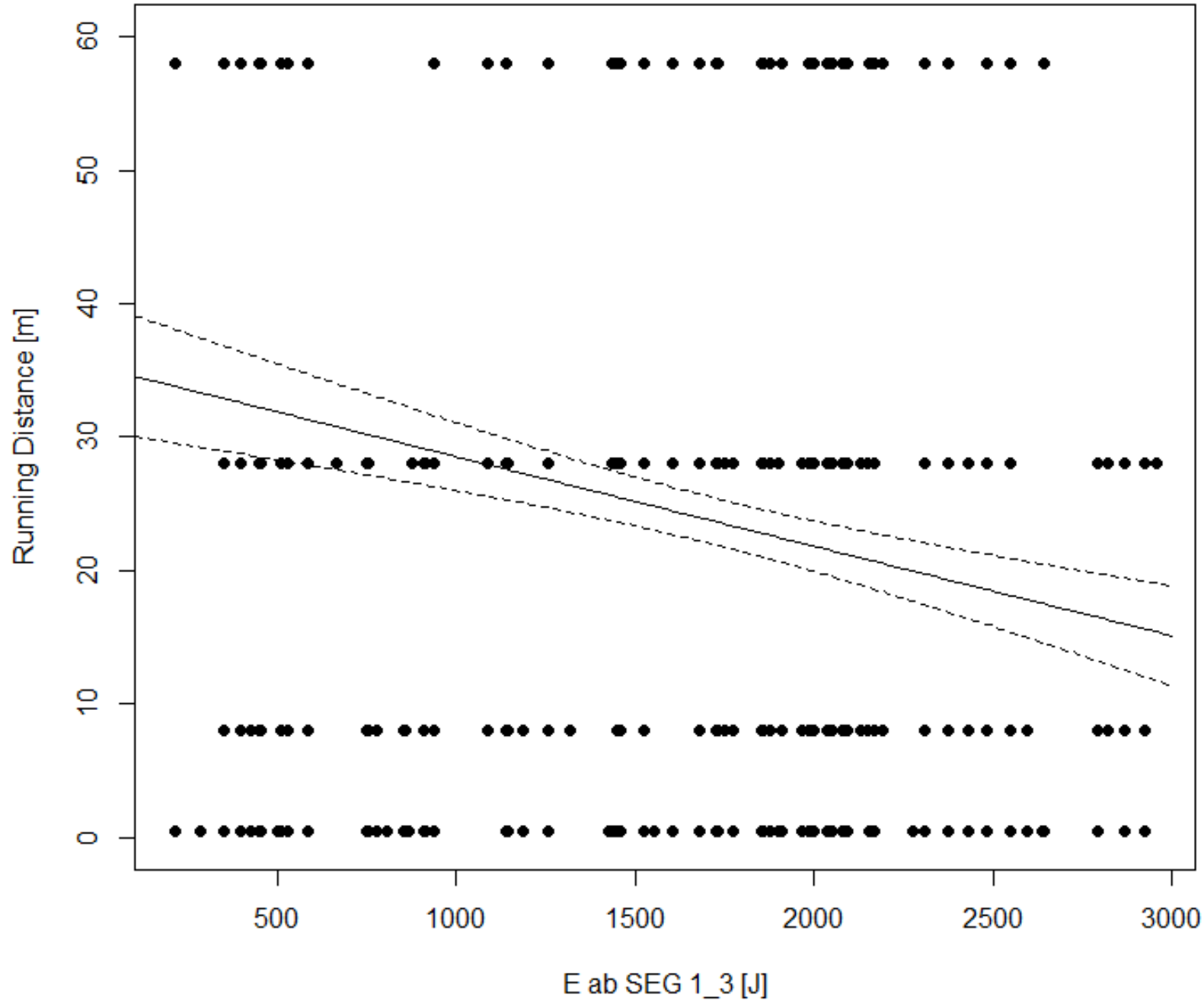
**Segment 3 (10-15cm)**

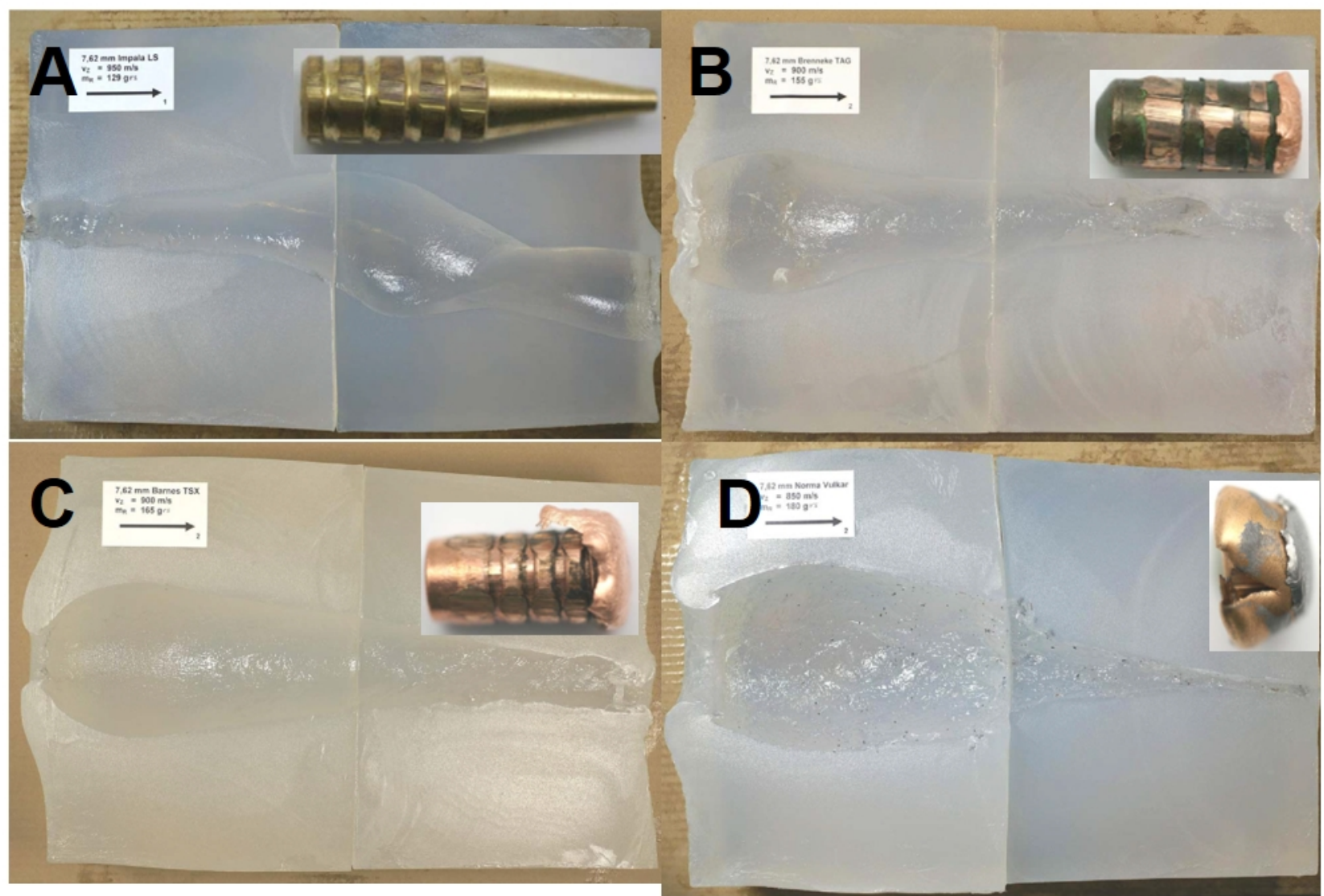


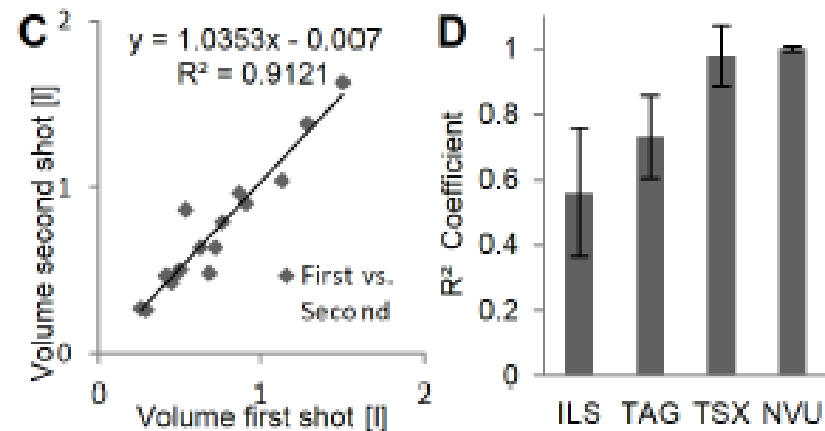
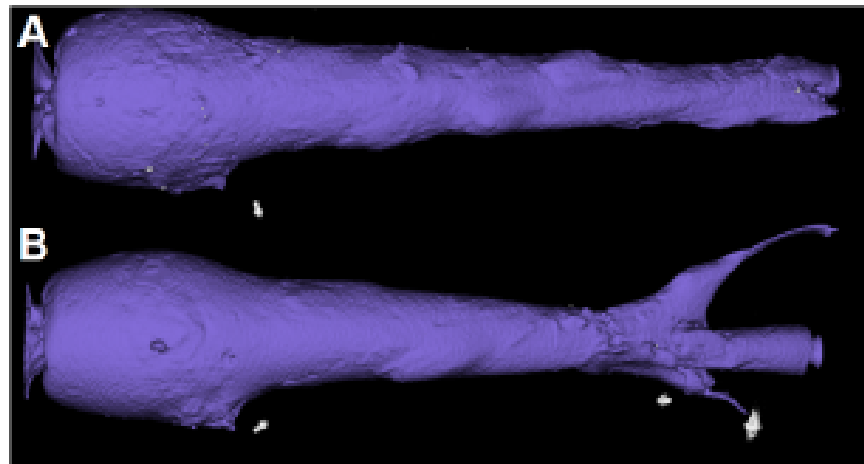
**Segment 4 (15-20 cm)**



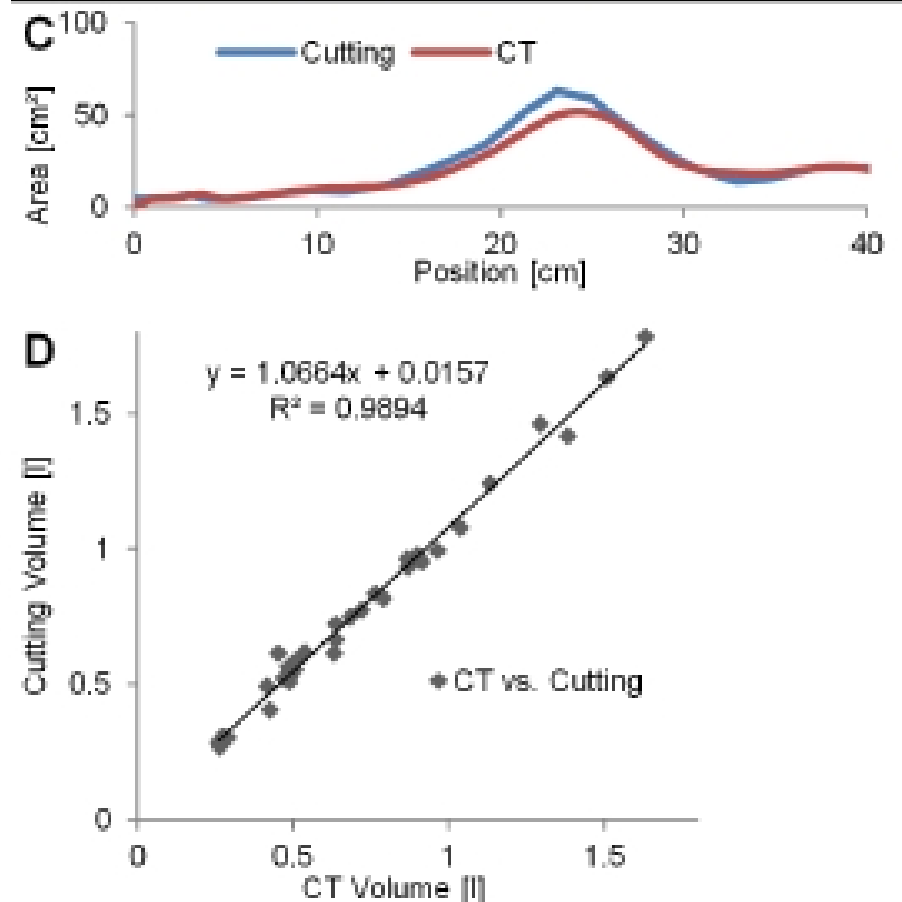
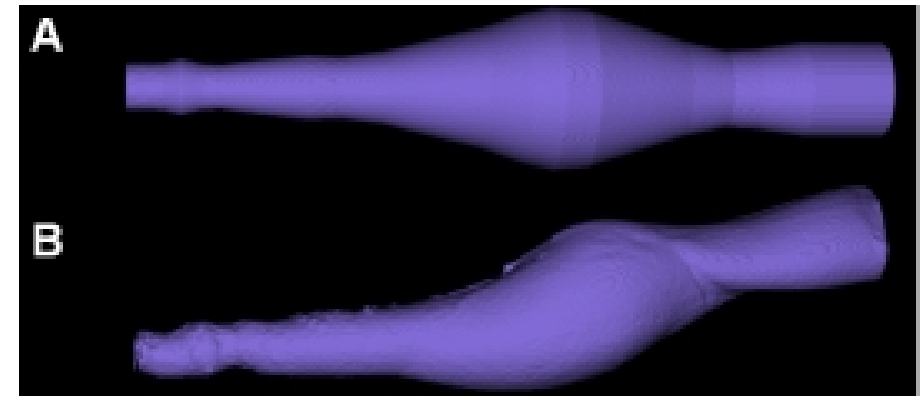
## Running distance over Energy release SEG 1\_3



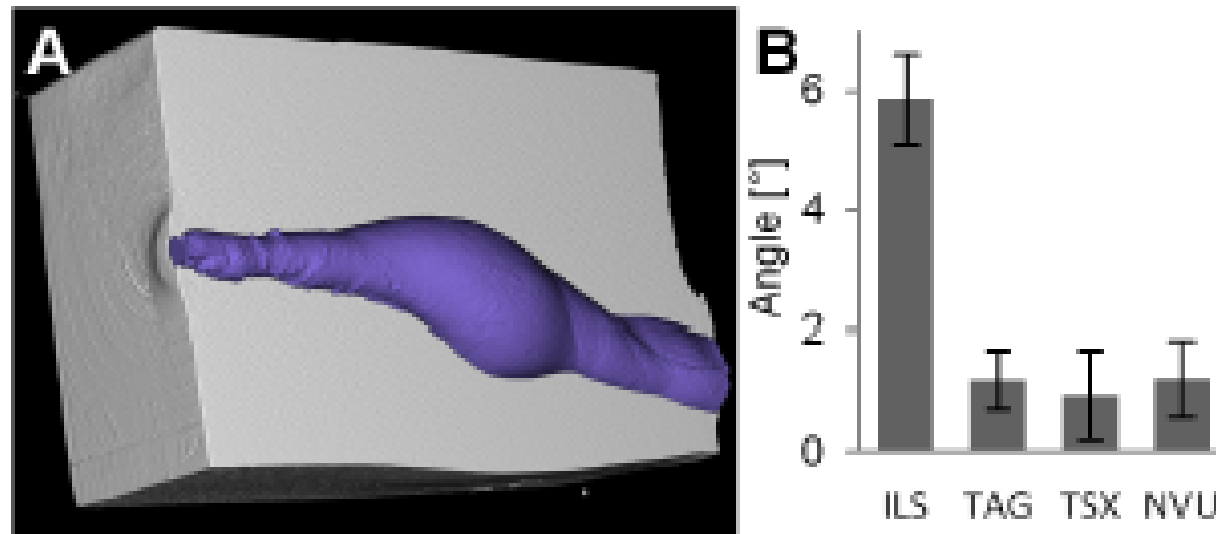




**Figure 12. Reproducibility.** Reproducibility was assessed by repeating shots. (A, B) Two cavities for the TAG bullet at 900 m/s appear similar except for small parts created by unpredictable fragments. (C) A strong correlation of the volumes between all first and second shots is found ( $n = 16$ ), showing high reproducibility. (D) The correlation, i.e. reproducibility is highest for NVU and TSX. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0102015.g012

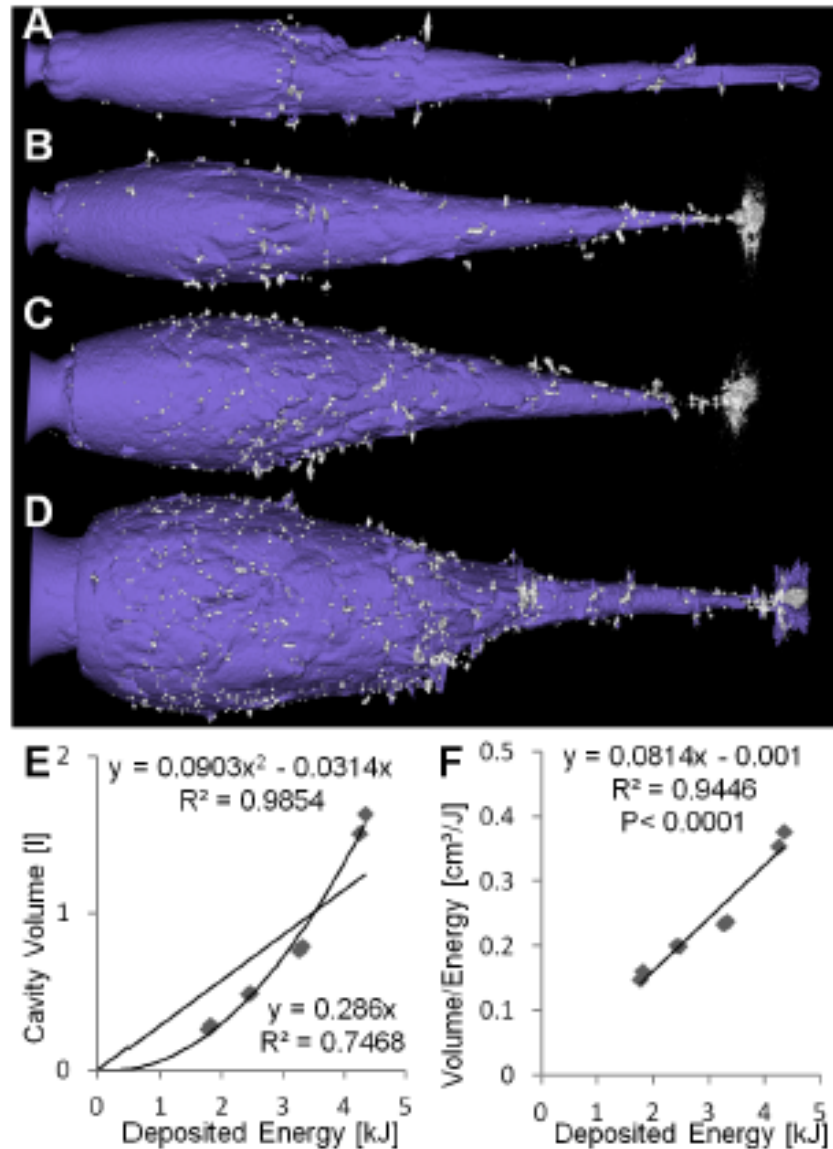




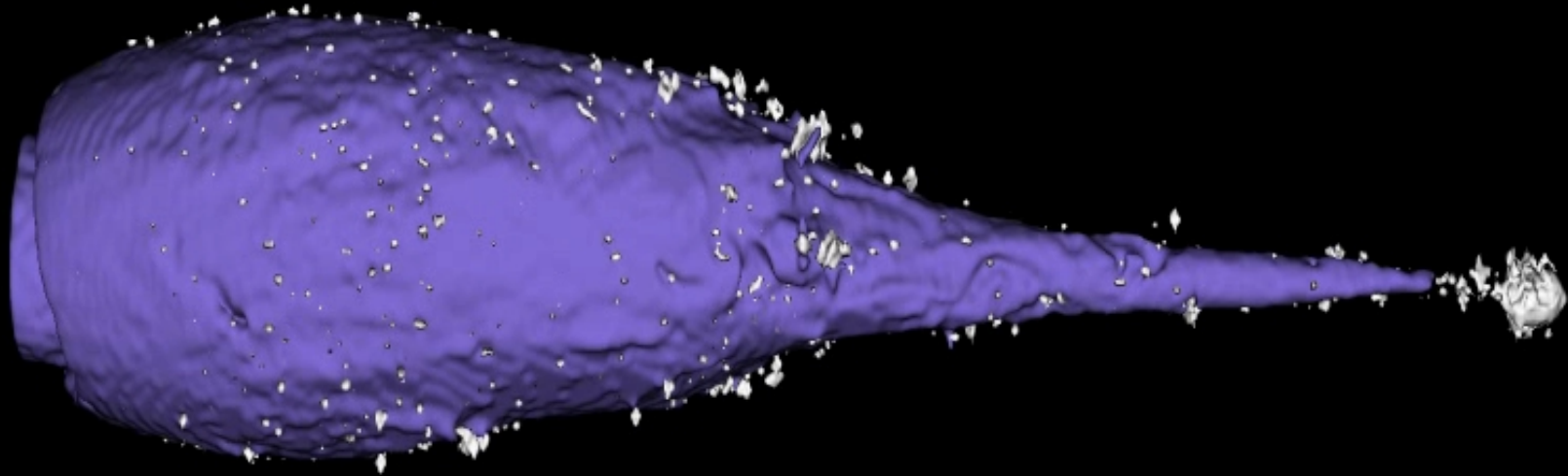


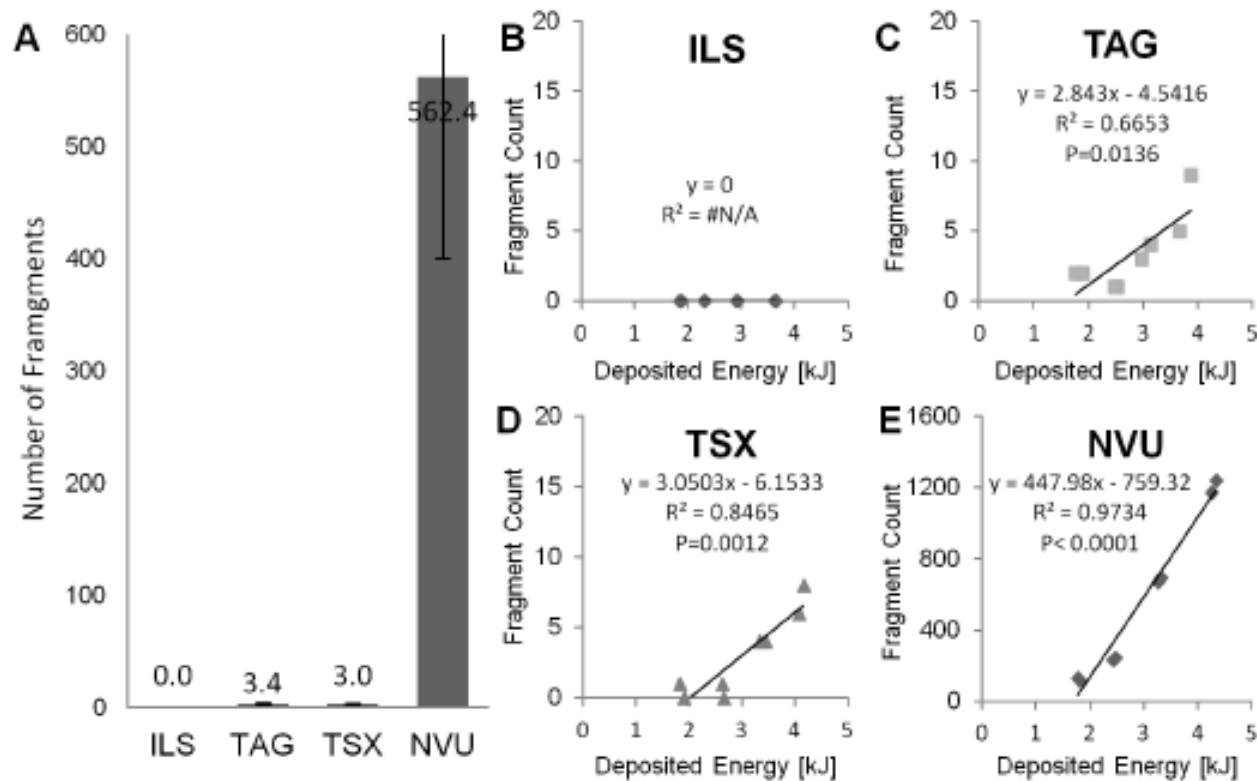
**Figure 10. Deviation angle.** (A) Virtually cut soap block and cavity show the deviation of the ILS bullet after the tumbling phase. (B) The deviation angle is significantly higher ( $P < 0.001$ ) for ILS compared to all other bullet types.

[doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0102015.g010](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0102015.g010)



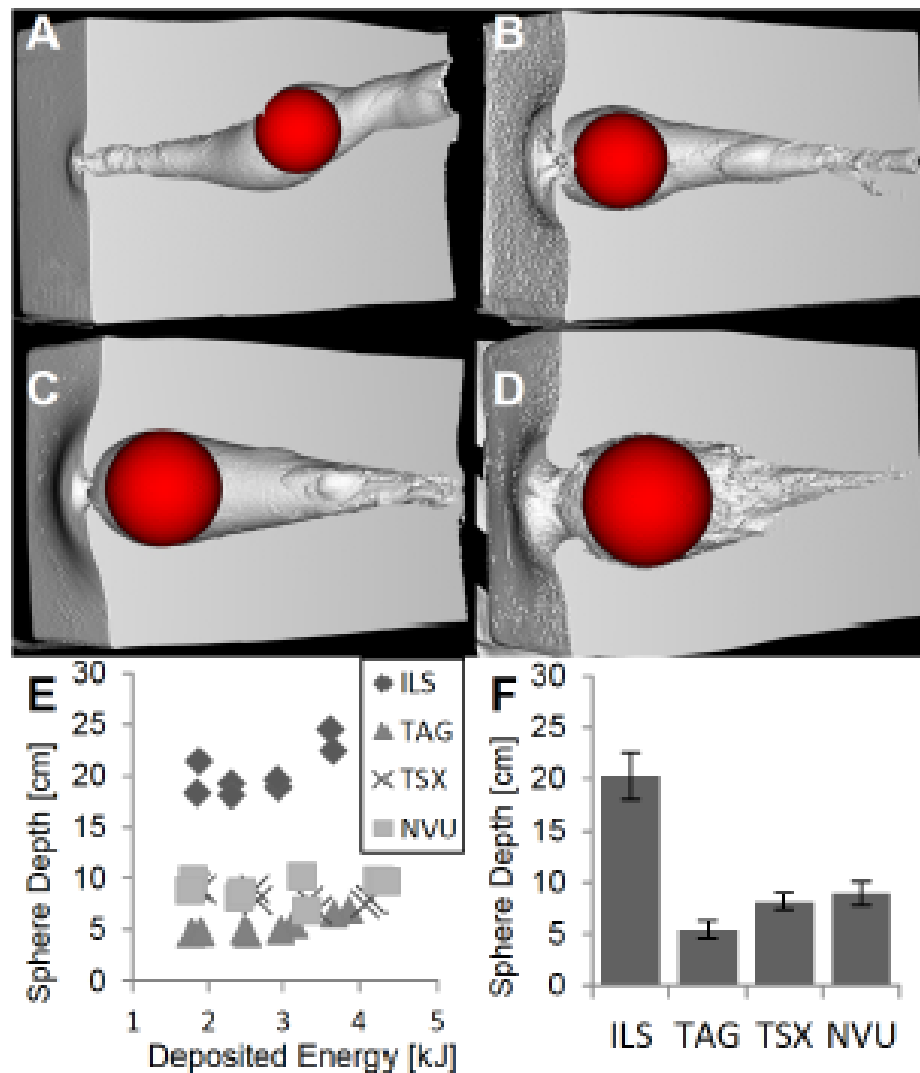
**Figure 6. Deforming lead-containing bullet (NVU).** (A–D) Cavities at increasing energies. Many metal fragments are visible. (E) Cavity volume plotted over deposited energy with higher  $R^2$  for the quadratic regression than for linear regression. (F) Ratio of volume and deposited energy increases with deposited energy ( $P < 0.001$ ).  
doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0102015.g006





**Figure 7. Number of fragments.** (A) Significantly more fragments occur for the lead-based bullet compared to all lead-free bullets ( $P < 0.001$ ). No fragments occur for the brass bullet. (A–E) The number of metal fragments over the deposited energy.  
doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0102015.g007





**Figure 9. Depth of maximal damage.** Position of a maximal fitting sphere was determined for each cavity. (A–D) Examples are shown for ILS, TAG, TSX, and NVU at highest speeds. (E) The depth (along the longest block axis) over deposited energy. (F) Depths differ significantly ( $P < 0.001$ ) between all bullet types except between TSX and NVU.  
 doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0102015.g009



**Figure 8. Exiting fragments.** The exiting fragments were collected and weighed to calculate the deposited energy. Fragments are shown for increasing speeds from top to bottom. Pictures were only taken when fragments exited the soap block.  
[doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0102015.g008](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0102015.g008)

# Summary

Lead is toxic.

Lead Hunting bullets taint game meat.

Lead from Hunting bullets poisons raptors.

**THE USE OF LEAD IN HUNTING BULLETS IS AVOIDABLE  
BY UNDERSTANDING TERMINAL BALLISTICS.**