

## THE TAPHONOMIST'S CORNER

### *HUNGRY LIONS*



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Carcasses consumed by lions in East African savannas tend to be thoroughly defleshed. Available resources for scavenging are basically the brain and the long limb bone marrow. Carcasses may appear as defleshed as the one shown in the photograph, when hunting and consumption takes place in open habitats, where competition is high and carnivores overlap in the use of the space. Lions invest more energy into defleshing their prey quicker due to the presence of other carnivores. Most of the conspicuous bone damage inflicted by lions while defleshing can be observed on the rib cage, the vertebral processes -and sometimes, the ventral side of the corpus-, and on the proximal and distal epiphyses of humeri and femora, where some substantial furrowing can occasionally be seen. Pride size determines the extend of limb disarticulation.