Abstract volume

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Poster Communications

The atlas of Moroccan Mammals: a new synthesis.

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In 1986 the "Catalogue des Mammifères sauvages du Maroc" was the first attempt to map the distribution of all terrestrial mammal species living in Morocco on a same grid basis. Twenty five years later, taxonomic changes, population and/or range regression, and knowledge improvement, raised up the need to update this reference. For this second edition we tried to collect the largest set of available data (including Museum collections) thanks to the contribution of Moroccan workers and visitors. The main chapters of the book will deal with identification, distribution, habitat and conservation status of the 105 "historical" species on the basis of texts facing maps that will be issued from a large database (> 10,000 locations) on a 15’ x 15’ grid (> 5,200 filled grids, 1 for Gerbillus dromedarius or 239 for Lepus capensis). They will be complemented by invited contributions on marine mammals and history of the mammal fauna during the Quaternary, including paleoecological and engraving syntheses. A comprehensive list of references will be added to each chapter. This publication is scheduled for 2012. All additional (published or unpublished) data are urgently welcome.

Interaction between common bottlenose dolphin (Tursiops truncatus) and marine fish farm in the gulf of Alghero (Sardinia, Italy).

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In this work, we present the results of the first photo-identification study in the Gulf of Alghero (Sardinia, Italy). The objective of this research was to assess, applying mark-recapture technique, the seasonal distribution, site fidelity and group dynamics of bottlenose dolphins (Tursiops truncatus) in proximity of an offshore fish farm. In this area bottlenose dolphins show an high seasonality with more captures of new permanently marked individuals (n = 22) reach the asymptote. High variability in re-sighting frequencies suggests that some individuals have a high site fidelity while others frequent the study area sporadically. Thus bottlenose dolphins in the Gulf of Alghero appear to be part of a larger, open, coastal population and the North-western Sardinian waters appear to be only a section of a much larger home range for this species. Finally these results can be compared with similar studies carried out along the North eastern coast of Sardinia and confirmed that bottlenose dolphins can frequently capitalize on aquaculture activities in Sardinia Island.

The last of the fallow deer, Dama dama dama (L., 1758) of the island of Rhodes, Dodecanese (Greece): an estimate of numbers

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The occurrence of European fallow deer, Dama dama dama (L., 1758), on the island of Rhodes, Dodecanese (Greece), is documented since prehistoric times (about 6000 BC). This population can be regarded as the oldest still surviving on any Mediterranean island. Today, it appears to be seriously threatened by poaching and by the continual reduction of the natural areas suitable for its diffusion. The aim of the present paper is to provide a numeric estimate of the extant deer population of the island yielded by empiric methodologies implemented in liaison with the Forestry Service of Rhodes over the course of the last year.

Golden jackal (Canis aureus) distribution in Croatia

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During the last 50 years significant fluctuations in golden jackal (Canis aureus) population size and distribution was noted in Eastern and Central Europe. First records of jackals in Croatia date from 15th century, but scientific data about their distribution was not systematically collected. In order to determine the current state and provide bases for further distribution monitoring, we analyzed data about jackal hunting management in Croatia from 2007 until 2010. Yearly reports from all hunting units were provided by Hunting Department, Ministry of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management. They were used to create maps of areas where jackals were recorded and hunted. Jackals were recorded in 297 (27.9%) and shot in 165 (15.5%) hunting units. Based on the analyzed data we estimate that jackals in Croatia are present on at least 17 300 km² (31% of total hunting area, national parks not included). In total 70% of all jackals were shot in Mediterranean region (Pelješac Peninsula, Ravni kotari, Dalmatinska zagora), indicating that area has the largest jackal population density. In the continental, north-east part of Croatia we recorded 25% of shot jackals, while other hunting areas with records of hunting were dispersed and indicated low jackal densities. Increase in number of shot animals per year from 2007 (132) till 2010 (790), can be interpreted as a sign of population growth. Grey wolf (Canis lupus) and jackal distribution in Croatia significantly overlap in Dalmatinska Zagora and Ravni kotari region, while in the core areas of wolf distribution (Gorski kotar and Lika) jackals were not hunted.