



Conference Abstract

Distribution and taxonomy of the Grey voles (Mammalia, Rodentia, subgenus *Microtus*) in Bulgaria

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Abstract

Grey voles (subgenus *Microtus*), widespread in Eurasia, may be important pests and could cause serious damage to agricultural grain fields. In Bulgaria two morphologically similar species are present (*Microtus arvalis* Pallas, 1778 and *M. rossiaemeridionalis* Ognev 1924), which are impossible to identify in the field. Despite their importance as pests, very little is known about their current status and distribution. Here we contributed new data - based on karyological examination of 27 individuals of voles. We summarized all available information on the distribution of the voles – 20 published and 11 unpublished locations. Both species co-occurred together in north Bulgaria; in Thrace and the SE only *M. rossiaemeridionalis* is distributed. *Microtus rossiaemeridionalis* seems to occupy lower elevations, while in the mountain areas (above 1000 m) only *M. arvalis* is found, which corresponds well with the data from neighboring countries. The taxonomy of both species in Bulgaria is discussed.

Keywords

Distribution, karyology, sibling species, voles, *Microtus* sp.

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