



most variation can be found within the populations and little differentiation between the populations. Nevertheless, different analyses of population differentiation including Bayesian approaches, suggested the subdivision of the brown bears into several subpopulations. A significant negative relationship between geographic distance and genetic relatedness was found and pointed to isolation by distance. Analyses of migration between the sampled areas resulted in low numbers for migration. These findings were supported by an assignment analysis, which detected only a few migrants per generation. More data is currently under analysis and results will be presented at the symposium. This research and its results represent the start of the long-term genetic monitoring and research of the brown bears in Finland, Norway and North Western Russia.

Key-words: Brown bear, *Ursus arctos*, population structure, non-invasive sampling, Finland, Russia, Norway



INTRASPECIFIC VARIABILITY OF RACCOON DOG ON MACRO- AND MICRO GEOGRAPHICAL SCALES.

N.P. Korablyov, P.N. Korablyov, M.P. Korablyov

Velikie Luki Agricultural Academy, Velikie Luki, Russia

Craniometrical variability of raccoon dog *Nyctereutes procyonoides* (a total of 381 skulls in 6 samples) from native populations of Amur and Khabarovsk Regions as well as from the populations introduced in Tver and Vologda Regions was investigated at different stages of its dispersal using multivariate analysis. The measurement design included 21 variables taken with an accuracy of 0.01 mm. In spite of evident sexual dimorphism in general skull sizes, variability was, in principle, similar in both sexes, but the extent of morphological divergence differed. On the micro geographical scale (within Tver Region and on the border of Vologda Region), the skull morphological habit in



females was highly structured (70% of correct classification by discriminant analysis). On the macro geographical scale, male samples from different population were recognized with higher quality (79% of correct classification). Intraspecific variation had a wider range in females than in males (coefficients of variation was 4.60% and 4.27%, respectively). Specificity of the morphological habit of native populations was clearly expressed (88% of correct classification on average). This fact presumably confirms the presence of a reproductive barrier formed by Malyi Khingan and Bureinskie mountains (Yudin, 1977). Morphological variability in the introduced pioneers in the European part of Russia is less distinct, and the samples form continual subsets connected by transitional morphological forms. A relatively discrete group of animals inhabits the area on the border with Vologda Region. This divergence is most probably connected with the reproductive barrier created by Rybinskoye storage reservoir, and can be considered as a manifestation of the founder effect. Merging of separate populations into the metapopulation of European Russia has resulted in diffusion of their morphological specificity. Present-day introduced population groups are characterized by low structuring due to panmixia against the background of lastingly high population density.



ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF LYNX (*LYNX LYNX* (LINNAEUS, 1758) IN THE UTTER NORTH-EAST OF EUROPE

A.N. Korolyov

*Institute of Biology, Komi Research Centre, RAS Ural Division, Syktyvkar,
Russia*

Published sources, official data, interview and questionnaire data, and own materials were analysed to detect patterns in the distribution and habitation of lynx in the utter north-east of Europe. One can say the