



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

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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



limit of the species' constant presence in the region is the Timan Ridge. The territories immediately adjoining the ridge's northern macroslope (Ust-Tsilemsky, Izhemsky, Ukhtinsky, Sosnogorsky, Troitsko-Pechyorsky Districts, Komi Republic) form the periphery of the range, where unstable local groups of the predator occasionally form. Further north-eastwards, few visits mainly by solitary individuals may be noted. The animals occur both in the flatland Ural region (right- and left-side banks of Pechora, basins of rivers Kozhva (R. Entyush'yu), Lyzha, Kozhym, Kos'yu, Bolshaya Inta, Bolshaya Rogovaya (R. Ruch'yu), Usa (itself and R. Kechpel')) and in the mountains of Circumpolar (basins of rivers Shchuger (R. Bolshoi Patok), Bolshaya Synya (R. Vojvozh-Synya)) and Polar (basins of rivers Lemva (R. Yun'yakha), Yelets (itself and R. Kharuta)) Urals. The results of interviews and questionnaires suggest the animals may sometimes cross the Ural Ridge. In the tundra zone (Nenetsky Autonomous District), two individuals were sighted in the upper course of the Adz'va River, about 50 km SW from Vashutkin Lakes in December 2005.



RANGE AND ABUNDANCE DYNAMICS OF MAMMALS IN THE URAL AREA: PROBLEMS OF HUNTING AND RARE SPECIES CONSERVATION

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The report presents the results of research into the range and abundance dynamics of hunted and rare mammals in the Ural region.

1. Industrial development of the region began around 400 years ago, and has been very intensive in the past 100-150 years. Substantial changes have taken place in ecosystems during this period. Influence of the main anthropogenic factors is discussed in the report.