

## **Abstract**

The aim of the thesis was to evaluate possibilities of morphological differentiation of skulls of lions (*Panthera leo*) and tigers (*Panthera tigris*) for the purposes of control authorities supervising a trade with endangered species protected by CITES. Tiger skeletons are one of the black markets highly lucrative and plentifully traded goods. Tiger skeletons might be easily exchanged for those of the lions, therefore their distinction is crucially needed for the control authorities. Therefore, a literature search on the morphological differences between the skulls of these two large felids with a focus on non-metric features was carried out. The results of the study show a possibility of distinction between lion and tiger skulls, though different identification features are shown among studied papers. Morphological differences and characteristics of individual subspecies or populations, as well as differences between the sexes and differences caused by specific conditions during ontogenetic development (such as captive breeding) are discussed. The results of the bachelor's thesis suggest a high reliability of species identification by simultaneous usage of multiple morphological characteristics of skulls. However, this conclusion should still be verified by empirical examination of selected identification features on a sufficiently large set of skulls of both compared species.

## **Key words:**

determination, illegal trade, lion, morphology, *Panthera*, skull, tiger