

## **Abstract**

During the Quaternary there was a cyclical alternation of warm and cold periods - interglacials and glacials. Over the past 2.5 million years there was eighteen or twenty these cycles. These climate changes influenced by, except other, Milankovic cycles caused at sea level, extent of glaciation or distribution of vegetation zones. All these factors affected the communities of mammals, their distribution, migration and extinction of some groups of mammals. Area of continental and mountain glaciers expanded as well as levels of the ocean decreased during the glacials. Many species of mammals penetrated into new territory with the emergence of land-bridges a mammals from isolated areas could interact during cold periods. There was a retreat of glaciers and sea level rise and the migration routes through the land bridges was interrupted during the interglacials. Many, mostly island, populations were isolated and they were often developed to new endemic species.

**Key words:** glacial, interglacial, climate changes, distribution, migration, extinction