

## **Carnivores and ungulates in Mid-European landscape**

### **Abstract**

The paper provides a brief survey of abundance status and population trends for most species of large mammals distributed in the Czech Republic. Abundance dynamics during past decades is discussed based on hunter statistic records covering both yearly data on hunting bags and standardized accounts of spring abundance of game animals from gamekeeper's evidence. It is documented that most of the species including regularly hunted ungulates, most of mesocarnivores and currently expanding species (raccoon dog, racoon) are undergoing fluent population density increase contrasting with decrease of abundance of smaller to medium sized forms (hare, rabbit, marten, polecat). The respective data suggest that recently the community structure of large mammals has undergone considerable rearrangements. The monitoring of such phenomena is worth of a serious zoological research. The paper discussed methodological issues for such studies with particular attention to techniques of monitoring with aid of automated camera traps. Relations of the recorded faunal changes and landscapes rearrangements during past decades are also discussed. The paper is supplementing with a brief summary of two-year camera trap study in Brdy Mts.

Key words: carnivora and ungulates, changes of landscapes, central Europe, monitoring techniques