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Jens Jacob, Alexandra Esther (Editors)

# 8th European Vertebrate Pest Management Conference

Berlin, Germany, 26-30 September 2011

*- Book of Abstracts -*

Julius Kühn-Institut
Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants

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Humboldt University, Berlin
Faculty of Agriculture and Horticulture

Julius Kühn-Institut
Bundesforschungsinstitut für Kulturpflanzen

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## Preface

Following the tradition of biennial meetings, that was established with the 1st European Vertebrate Pest Management Conference in 1997 in York, UK, the 8th European Vertebrate Pest Management Conference aimed to provide a platform for scientists, management staff and legislators involved in vertebrate pest issues.

The 2011 meeting was organized by the Vertebrate Research Group of Julius Kühn Institute, Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants and the Faculty of Agriculture and Horticulture of Humboldt University. The organizers thankfully acknowledge the financial support provided by the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, the Federal Ministry of Health, the Federal Environment Agency, the German Phytomedical Society, and the German Research Foundation.

Former meetings have been held in York, United Kingdom (1997), Braunschweig, Germany (1999), SeKibbutz Ma'aleh Hachamisha, Israel (2001), Parma, Italy (2003), Budapest, Hungary (2005), Reading, United Kingdom (2007) and Lyon, France (2009). In Berlin 2011, circa 150 delegates met for a week of conferencing (about 130 talks and posters, 1 workshop), social interaction (conference tour) and discussions about the latest research, developments, opportunities and achievements in vertebrate pest management.

The organizers paid special attention to include presentations from countries beyond Europe and paid particular attention to countris with developing and emerging economies. As a result, participants from 25 European countries and 13 countries from Africa, Asia, Australia, north-America and south-America contributed talks and posters.

The presentations were held in 9 symposia on fertility control, invasives, birds, new tools incl. a workshop, mammal population dynamics, rodenticide resistance, vertebrates in developing/ emerging countries, wild boar, and zoonoses. The 130 conference contributions are summarized in this book of abstracts. In addition, a special issue of the international scientific journal Pest Management Science will be dedicated to the 8th European Vertebrate Pest Management Conference. Publication of the special issue will be in early 2012 and contain full papers of about 20 invited, peer-reviewed articles.

All summaries in this book of abstracts are available online via www.jki.bund.de/en and can also be accessed through the conference website www.evpmc.org.

The abstracts presented here demonstrate the diversity of regions, economic systems, and vertebrate species that matter in the context of vertebrate pest management. It seems that vertebrate damage to European agriculture, forestry, horticulture and infrastructure exceeds 1 billion € per year. This is likely to increase because the value of many crops is growing as a result of rising global demand for food, timber and bio-fuel. The monetary loss due to vertebrate borne disease in Europe is barely known.

There is a range of management methods available to minimize vertebrate damage in plant production, health protection and conservation. The major challenges for the future are 1) the development of management approaches that are environmentally benign, effective and economical and 2) to maintain and expand the diversity of methods in the management tool box to appropriately control problems caused by overabundant vertebrates.

The next European Vertebrate Pest Management Conference will be held in Finland organized by Otso Huitu and Heikki Henttonen of the Finnish Forest Research Institute. We are looking forward to the meeting in 2013 in northern Europe.

We sincerely thank all colleagues that were involved in organizing the 8th European Vertebrate Pest Management Conference. We are indebted to organizers of the symposia, the plenary speakers and all other presenters. Thank you for making the conference such a productive and enjoyable meeting.

Münster, September 2011

Jens Jacob and Alexandra Esther

## Table of Contents

**Preface** 3

Plenary talks

**What we know and don't know about invasive vertebrates in Europe** 12
Jeschke, J.M.

**Ungulate impact on forest regeneration and dynamics and its implications for forest management and conservation – long-term data from Bialowieza primeval forest, Poland** 14
Jędrzejewska, B.

**Fertility control for invasive pest mammals – Fare we making progress?** 15
Hinds, L.A.

**Eradication of invasive birds from tropical oceanic islands: lessons learned from studies of common mynas *Acridotheres tristis*** 17
Feare, C., Greenwell, P., Edwards, H., Taylor, J., Van der Woude, J.

**Retrieving and retaining older and advancing novel rodenticides-as alternatives to anticoagulants** 19
Eason, C.T., Henderson, R., Murphy, E., Shapiro, L., MacMorran, D., Blackie, H., Brimble, M., Conole, D., Rennison, D., Gibson, T.J., Gregory N.G.

**Current situation of human vector-borne diseases in European wildlife** 21
Zeller, H.

Symposium: Invasive vertebrates

**Alien mammalian species in Russia: ancient and modern invasions** 22
Khlyap, L.

**Turning back the tide of American mink invasion at unprecedented scales in partnership with communities** 24
Lambin, X., Atkinson, S., Bryce, R., Davies, L., Gray, H., Oliver, M.K, Urquhart, J.

**Aliens attack – population dynamics and density control of American mink *Neovison vison* in four National Parks in Poland** 26
Niemczynowicz, A.

**Project Halo – predator control for native bird recovery in rural and urban areas** 27
Simmons, J.H.

**Spatial use and interaction of the raccoon dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) and the red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) in central Europe – competition or coexistence?** 29
Drygala, F., Zoller, H.

**The even darker side of the eastern gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*): a review of global introductions, invasion biology, and pest management strategies** 31
Huynh, H.M., Bertolino, S., Lurz, P.W.W., Koprowski, J.I., Williams, G.R., Thompson, C.W., McAlpine, D.F.

**Changes in the impact and control of the grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis)* as determined from regional surveys in Great Britain** 33
Mayle, B., Broome, A.

**Assessment of invasive muskrat *Ondatra zibethicus* distribution and impacts on ecosystems in Lithuania** 34
Butautytė-Skyrienė, G., Paulauskas, A., Ulevičius, A.

**Approaches to deal with the coypu (*Myocastor coypus*) in urban areas - an example of practice in southern Brandenburg, Germany** 36
Walther, B., Lehmann, M., Fuelling, O.

**Best practice fox management in Australia** 38
Saunders, G., McLeod, L.

**Why 0.02%? A review of the basis for current broadscale control of rabbits in New Zealand** 40
Nugent, G., Warburton, B., Fisher, P., Twigg, L., Cowan, P.

**Plans to eradicate invasive mammals on an island inhabited by humans and domestic animals (Corvo, Azores, Portugal)** 42
Oppel, S., Beaven, B.M., Bolton, M., Bodey, T.W., Geraldes, P., Oliveira, N., Hervias, S., Henriques, A., Silva, C.

**Welfare and ethical issues in invasive species management** 44
Cowan, P., Warburton, B., Fisher, P.

**Fallow deer (*Dama dama* Linnaeus, 1758) in the province of Rieti (central Italy): origin and first data on the competition with native red deer and roe deer** 46
Bonanni, M., Adriani, S., Cecchini, C., Morbidelli, M., Amici, A.

**Study on the presence and perception of coypu (*Myocastor coypus* Molina, 1782) in three areas of Lazio region (Italy)** 49
Adriani, S., Bonanni, M., Amici, A.

**Genetic variability of raccoon dogs and their impacts on the environment in Lithuania** 51
Pūraitė, I., Griciuvienė, L., Paulauskas, A., Sruoga, A., Gedminas, V., Butkauskas, D.

## Symposium: Rodenticide resistance and management of commensal rodents

**Results of four years of digital urban monitoring of *Rattus norvegicus* with RatMap in Hamburg including data on infestation near the surface and in underground sewers** 53
Plenge-Bönig, A., Zickert, A., Baumgardt, K., Sammann, A.

**Practical rat control in the city of Zürich – there is more than just baiting!** 54
Schmidt, M.E.

**Occurrence of Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) in above-ground and underground habitats in Budapest, Hungary** 55
Bajomi, D., Kiss, Z., Papp, G.

**Accumulation of chlorophacinone in susceptible and resistant Norway rat strains** 56
Berny, P., Caillis, P., Vey, D.

**Resistance as a factor in environmental exposure of anticoagulant rodenticides - a modelling approach** 58
Daniells, L., Buckle, A., Prescott, C.V.

**VKOR and anticoagulant resistance – mutations, models and mechanisms** 60
Müller, C.R., Rost, S.

**Anticoagulant resistance in the UK and a new guideline for the management of resistant infestations of Norway rats (*Rattus norvegicus* Berk.)** 61
Buckle, A.

**Investigation of the current status of anticoagulant resistance in UK Norway rats by VKORC1 genotyping** 63
Clarke, D.J., Prescott, C.V.

**Distribution and consequences of VKORC1 polymorphisms in Germany** 64
Runge, M., Von Keyserlingk, M., Braune, S., Freise, J., Eiler, T., Plenge-Bönig, A., Becker, D., Pelz, H.-J., Esther, A., Rost, S., Müller, C.R.

**Antidotal potential of specific diets in Norway rats** 65
Jacob, J., Freise, J.F.

**Distribution and frequency of VKORC1 sequence variants conferring resistance to anticoagulants in *Mus musculus*** 66
Pelz, H.-J., Rost, S., Müller, E., Esther, A., Ulrich, R.G., Müller, C.R.

**Adaptive introgressive hybridization with the Algerian mouse (*Mus spretus*) promoted the evolution of anticoagulant rodenticide resistance in European house mice (*M. musculus domesticus*)** 67
Song, Y., Endepols, S., Klemann, N., Richter, D., Matuschka, F.-R., Shih, C.-H., Nachman, M.W., Kohn, M.H.

**Field trials to assess resistance to warfarin and difenacoum of house mice in relation to the occurrence of variants in the *vkorc1*-gene before and after the treatments** 70
Endepols, S., Klemann, N., Song, Y., Kohn, M.H.

**Fluctuation and fixation of rodenticide resistance alleles in *Rattus norvegicus*** 72
Berthier, K., Benoit, E., Berny, P., Lasseur, R., Merville, A., Peigneaux, F., Cosson, J.-F.

**Characteristics of the local distribution of the Y139C resistance gene in Norway rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) in a focus of resistance in Westphalia, Germany** 73
Klemann, N., Esther, A., Endepols, S.

## Symposium: Population dynamics and management of mammals

**Small mammal communities in agricultural landscapes in Germany: review of field data over the last decade** 75
Von Blanckenhagen, F., Städtler, T.

**Population dynamics and dispersal patterns of common voles (*Microtus arvalis*)** 77
Leukers, A., Jacob, J.

**Economic evaluation of biological rodent control using barn owls *Tyto alba* in alfalfa** 79
Motro, Y.

**Voles and boreal silviculture – overview of damage and options for management** 81
Huitu, O., Henttonen, H.

**Trap-tubs as a means of vole-damage reduction in afforestations** 82
Krüger, F., Jarchow, D.

**Surveys of Scottish farmers and their vertebrate pests – case study from a long running dataset** 83
Hartley, G., Campbell, S.

**Distribution, abundance and damages caused by European beavers (*Castor fiber*) in Polish forests** 85
Borowski, Z., Borkowski, J.

**Behavioral responses of voles along fences patrolled by natural predators** 86
Fuelling, O., Buehler, E., Airoldi, J.-P., Nentwig, W.

**Recent change in patterns of vole dynamics – for better or for worse?** 88
Gliwicz, J., Jancewicz, E.

**Long-term population dynamics of the field vole from the Czech Republic** 89
Tkadlec, E., Bejček, V., Flousek, J., Šťastný, K., Zima, J., Sedláček, F.

**Dynamics and reproduction of small rodents in Germany** 90
Jacob, J.

**Large-scale range expansion and eruption of common vole (*Microtus arvalis*) outbreaks in agricultural plains of NW Spain: historical reconstruction and novel impacts** 92
Luque-Larena, J.J., Mougeot, F., Arroyo, B.E., Viñuela, J., Jareño, D., Arroyo, L., Lambin, X.

**Development of a forecast model for outbreaks of common voles (*Microtus arvalis*) in Germany** 95
Imholt, C., Blank, B., Esther, A., Perner, J., Volk, T., Jacob, J.

**Foraging in risk-homogeneous landscapes – a spatial model for pest species distribution and damage in agriculture?** 96
Eccard, J.A.

**Synchronous population fluctuations of forest and field voles: implications for population management** 97
Tkadlec, E., Suchomel, J., Purchart, L., Heroldová, M., Čepelka, L., Homolka, M.

**Plant biomass and prediction of debarking caused by rodents in artificial regeneration of forest stands** 99
Homolka, M., Heroldová, M., Kamler, J.

**Vole impact on tree regeneration: insights into forest management** 101
Heroldová, M., Homolka, M., Tkadlec, E., Kamler, J., Suchomel, J., Purchart, L., Krojerová, J., Barančeková, M., Turek, K., Baňař, M.

**Is the Italian strategy to face the problem of stray dogs sustainable? A case study of two small municipalities in central Italy** 103
Adriani, S., Bonanni, M., Amici, A.

**A reward strategy for hunters to pursue the control programs of red fox (*Vulpes vulpes* Linnaeus, 1758)** 105
Adriani, S., Bonanni, M., Primi, R., Amici, A.

**Impact of the fat dormouse (*Glis glis* Linnaeus 1766) on hazel orchards in the area of Alta Langa and Belbo, Bormida, Uzzone Valleys (province of Cuneo, Italy): a preliminary assessment of agricultural damage** 107
Ghirardi, M., Tizzani, P., Dematteis, A.

**Capture traps as a method to minimize damage by red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) in golf courses** 109
Farfán, M.A., Duarte, J., Vargas, J.M.

**Landfill habitat restoration can reduce the incidence of vertebrate pest species** 111
Duarte, J., Zurita, F., Farfán, M.A., Vargas, J.M.

## Symposium: Fertility control in vertebrates

**Fertility control in Europe: applications for an overcrowded continent** 113
Massei, G., Cowan, D., Miller, L.A.

**Administration of the GnRH-targeted immunocontraceptive vaccine 'GonaCon™' to the tammar wallaby, *Macropus eugenii*: side effects and welfare implications** 114
Snape, M.A., Hinds, L.A., Miller, L.A.

**Field evaluation of the immunocontraceptive vaccine GonaConTM in free-living mammal populations** 115
Cowan, D., Massei, G., Ward, A., Miller, L.A.

**Proposed strategic management of fallow deer to conserve endemic red deer in the Mesola forest, Ferrara, Italy** 116
Ferri M., Ferraresi, M., Gelati, A., Vitturi, M.

**Assessing recombinant vaccinia virus as a delivery system for fertility control vaccines in the brushtail possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*)** 118
Duckworth, J., Cross, M., Fleming, S., Scobie, S., Whelan, E., Prada, D., Mercer, A., Cowan, P.

**The use of DiazaCon™ to limit fertility in grey squirrels** 120
Mayle, B., Ferryman, M., Peace, A., Yoder, C.A., Miller, L.A., Cowan, D.

**Reproductive inhibition with gossypol in the lesser bandicoot rat, *Bandicota bengalensis*** **122**
Singla, N., Meenu, M.

**Effects of the combination of levonorgestrel and quinestrol on reproductive hormone levels and their receptor expression in female Mongolian gerbils (*Meriones unguiculatus*)** **125**
Lv, X., Guo, Y., Shi, D.

**Quinestrol treatment induces testicular damage via oxidative stress in male Mongolian gerbils (*Meriones unguiculatus*)** **126**
Shen, W., Shi, D., Wang, D., Guo, Y., Hai, S., Yue, Z.

## Symposium: Management of birds

**The management of non-native birds in the United Kingdom** **127**
Allan, J.

**Current situation and problems of management of pest birds in the cities of Ukraine** **128**
Gavris, G.

**Hide-and-seek in Europe: highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1** **129**
Globig, A., Staubach, C., Harder, T.

**Environmental impacts of the control with organophosphate pesticides and explosions of the red-billed quelea bird *Quelea quelea* in Africa** **130**
Cheke, R.A., Van der Walt, E., Mbereki, C., Mtobesya, B.N., Magoma, R.N., Farman, D.I., Adranyi, E., McWilliam, A.

**Assessing the effects of three potential chemical repellents to prevent bird damage to corn seeds and seedlings** **132**
Esther, A., Tilcher, R., Jacob, J.

**Control of the urban pigeon *Columba livia* population and the preservation of common swift *Apus apus* and bats *Chiroptera* during the restoration of the Ghirlandina tower in the city of Modena (Italy)** **133**
Ferri, M., Ferraresi, M., Gelati, A., Zannetti, G., Domenichini, A., Ravizza, L., Cadignani, R.

**Providing incentives to encourage a control program of hooded crows (*Corvus corone cornix* L., 1758): a case study in Rieti province (Italy), 2005-10** **136**
Amici, A., Adriani, S., Bonanni, M., Serrani, F.

**Spiking buildings to avoid house martin (*Delichon urban*) nesting: is it a good choice?** **138**
Duarte, J., Farfán, M.A.,Vargas, J.M.

## Symposium: New tools and methods - alternatives to anticoagulants

**Prevalence of anticoagulant rodenticide poisoning in France: human and animal data** **140**
Berny, P., Velardo, J., Pulce, C., D'Amico, A., Kammerer, M., Lasseur, R., Belhadj, A., Mastain, O.

**High exposure rates of anticoagulant rodenticides in carnivorous birds and mammals in Danish landscapes** **143**
Elmeros, M., Christensen, T.K., Lassen, P.

**Anticoagulant rodenticides: exposure and residues in non-target rodents and their predators** **145**
Broll, A., Esther, A., Schenke, D., Jacob, J.

**Diphacinone and coumatetralyl persistence in deer and implications for wildlife management** **146**
Eason, C.T., Murphy, E., Ross, J., Hix, S., Arthur, D., MacMorran, D., Broome, K., Fairweather, A.

**Welfare assessment of fatal methaemoglobinaemia in adult rats (*Rattus norvegicus)*** **148**
Gibson, T.J., Gregory, N.G., Quy, R.J., Eason, C.T.

**Automatic and permanent rodent-monitoring - a proper method to evaluate rodenticide effects?** **150**
Fuelling, O., Klemann, N., Endepols, S.

**Integrating ecology and technology to create innovative pest control devices** 152
Blackie, H., MacMorran, D., Shapiro, L., Woodhead, I., Diegel, O., Murphy, E., Eason, C.T.

**Searching for alternative methods for a sustainable population management of the common vole (*Microtus arvalis*) in Saxony-Anhalt** 154
Eggert, J., Wolff, C., Richter, K.

**The development of a light-weight, long-life diphacinone rodent bait** 156
Ross, J.G., Eason, C.T., Sam, S., Shapiro, L., Blackie, H., MacMorran, D., Aylett, P., Tucker, N., Razzaq, H.

**Avian predators as a biological control system of common vole (*Microtus arvalis*) populations in NW Spain: experimental set-up and preliminary results** 157
Jareño, D., Paz, A., Arroyo, L., Viñuela, J., Arroyo, B.E., Mougeot, F., Luque-Larena, J.J., Fargallo, J.A.

**Smell you later - the repelling effect of secondary plant compounds against water voles and common voles** 159
Fischer, D., Prokop, A., Wink, M., Mattes, H., Jacob, J.

**Workshop on new tools and methods - alternatives to rodenticides and environmental implications** 160
Schmolz, E., Eason, C.T.

## Symposium: Vertebrate management in developing/emerging countries

**Rodent management in urban and rural ecosystems: experiences from central Argentina** 161
Cavia, R.

**Current status of bird pest species in agroecosystems of Buenos Aires province, central Argentina** 163
Codesido, M., Bilenca, D.

**The Ecorat project: development of ecologically-based rodent management for the southern African region** 165
Mulungu, L.S., Belmain, S.R., Dlamini, N., Eiseb, S., Kirsten, F., Mahlaba, T., Makundi, R., Malebane, P., Von Maltitz, E., Massawe, A., Monadjem, A., Taylor, P., Tutjavi, V.

**Is a native rodent competitively dominant over an invasive rodent in lowland agro-forest habitat of the Philippines?** 167
Stuart, A.M., Prescott, C.V., Singleton, G.R.

**Rodent outbreaks and extreme weather events: a southeast Asian perspective** 169
Singleton, G.R., Htwe, N.M., Nelson, A.D.

**Rat floods and water floods: the ecological and sociological dynamics of rodent management in Bangladesh** 171
Chakma, N., Belmain, S.R., Sarker, N.J., Sarker, S.U., Kamal, N.Q., Sarker, S.K.

**Are rodent population eruptions in southeast Asia associated with quantity or quality of food?** 174
Htwe, N.M., Singleton, G.R., Sluydts, V., Hinds, L.A.

**Population dynamics and breeding patterns of *Mastomys natalensis* Smith 1932 in irrigated rice in eastern Tanzania** 176
Mulungu, L.S., Ngowo, V., Mdangi, M., Katakweba, A.S., Tesha, P., Mrosso, F.P., Mchomvu, M.

**Man-eating and cattle-lifting by tigers and conservation implications in India** 178
Chauhan, N.P.S.

**Human-leopard conflict in Mandi district, Himachal Pradesh, India** 180
Kumar, D., Chauhan, N.P.S.

**Rodents as carriers of tick-borne zoonotic diseases and their ecological impact** 182
Paulauskas, A., Radzijevskaja, J., Rosef, O.

**Evaluation of bait uptake by ricefield rats using Rhodamine B as a bait marker under enclosure conditions** **184**
Tung, T.T., Henry, S., Cowan D.P., Sudarmaji, Hinds, L.A.

**The possibility of use of some essential oils in rodenticidal baits** **186**
Jokić, G., Vukša, M., Đedović, S., Stojnić, B., Kataranovski, D.

**A successful control of the invasive Indian house crows (*Corvus splendes)* in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia** **188**
Felemban, H.M.

**Monitoring and control of rodent pests in Albania** **189**
Çota, E.

**Agricultural crop depredation by nilgai antelope (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*) and mitigation strategies: challenges in India** **190**
Chauhan, N.P.S.

**Human casualties and agricultural crop raiding by wild pigs and mitigation strategies in India** **192**
Chauhan, N.P.S.

## Symposium: Zoonotic diseases in vertebrates

**A novel hepatitis E virus-like agent in wild Norway rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) from Germany** **194**
Ulrich, R.G., Plenge-Bönig, A., Schielke, A., Kindler, E., Dremsek, P., Gregersen, H., Rietschel, W., Groschup, M.H., Reetz, J., Guenther, S., Heckel, G., Johne, R.

**Lassa virus serology in rodents: spatial survey in Guinea, west Africa** **195**
Fichet-Calvet, E., Koulemou, K., Sylla, O., Soropogui, B., Kourouma, F., Doré, A., Becker-Ziaja, B., Koivogui, L., Günther, S.

**Biome-specific rodent dynamics and hantavirus epidemiologies in Europe** **196**
Henttonen, H., Leirs, H., Kallio, E.R., Tersago, K., Voutilainen, L.

**Relationship between bank vole abundance, seroprevalence and human hantavirus infections** **197**
Reil, D., Imholt, C., Schmidt, S., Rosenfeld, U.M., Ulrich, R.G., Eccard, J.A., Jacob, J.

**The role of rodents as carriers of disease on UK farms: a preliminary investigation** **198**
Stuart, A.M., Prescott, C.V., MacIntyre, S., Sethar, A., Neuman, B.W., McCarthy, N.D., Wimalarathna, H., Maiden, M.C.J.

**Badgers, farm buildings and bovine tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*) in cattle: the practical importance of understanding host behavior** **200**
Delahay, R., Judge, J.

**Evaluating selective culling with vaccination to control wildlife disease: badgers and bovine tuberculosis (bTB)** **201**
Smith, G.C., Wilkinson, D.

**Assessing classical swine fever disease control measures using an individual-based model** **203**
Lange, M., Kramer-Schadt, S., Thulke, H.-H.

**Differences in genetic structuring of populations of the Argentine hemorrhagic fever reservoir, the rodent *Calomys musculinus*, from endemic and non endemic zones** **204**
Chiappero, M.B., Piacenza, M.F., Gardenal, C.N., Calderón, G.E., Provensal, C., Polop, J.J.

**Natural hosts of different hantavirus genotypes in south America: who is who?** **206**
Gardenal, C.N., Gonzalez-Ittig, R.E., Rivera, P.C., Levis, S., Salazar-Bravo, J., Barquez, R.M.

**Hantavirus infections in forestry workers** **208**
Bjedov, L., Margaletić, J., Vucelja, M., Medved, M.M., Matijević, I., Krajinović, L.C., Markotic, A.

**Prevalence of *Toxoplasma gondii* in Belgian wildlife** **210**
De Craeye, S., Speybroeck, N., Baert, K., Ajzenberg, D., Dardé, M.L., Collinet, F., Tavernier, P., Van Gucht, S., Dorny, P., Dierick, K.

**Surveillance of *Echinococcus multilocularis* in rodents in the vicinity of the finding of the first infected red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) in Sweden** **211**
Olsson, G.E., Hörnfeldt, B., Ågren, E., Wahlström, H.

**The rate of trematode infections in wild ungulates in Naryn State Nature Reserve of the Kyrgyz Republic** **212**
Shermatov, S.

**Evaluation of bait acceptance by wild boar and non-target species - test of different distribution modalities and seasonal variations - implication for oral vaccination efficiency against classical swine fever virus** **213**
Sage, M., Hubert, P., Rossi, S.

## Symposium: Wild boar biology and management

**Managing wild boar - considerations for wild boar management based on game biology data** **215**
Keuling, O.

**Ecological impacts of feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*) on freshwater ecosystems in tropical Australia** **217**
Mitchell, J.

**The impacts of feral boar on woodland flora and fauna in Great Britain** **219**
Mayle, B., Harmer, R., Kewitt, A., Peace, A., Straw, N., Williams, D., Upson, M.

**Factors affecting the level of damage by wild boar in farmlands in north-eastern Poland** **221**
Frąckowiak, W., Gorczyca, S., Merta, D., Wojciuch-Płoskonka, M.

**The wild boar *Sus scrofa* L. as neighbor in an agricultural landscape – a new project** **224**
Herbst, C., Keuling, O.

**Conundrum of the Eurasian wild pig *Sus scrofa* status on the island of Singapore: human-wildlife and environmental conflict** **225**
Haridas, S., Diong, C.H., Seet, G., Lee, N.S.L.

**Wild boar population at the Vistula Spit – management of the species in forested and urban areas** **226**
Bobek, B., Frąckowiak, W., Furtek, J., Merta, D., Orłowska, L.

**Camera traps and activity signs to estimate density and population trends in wild pigs** **228**
Massei, G., Cowan, D., Lambert, M., Coats, J., Watola, G., Fox, S., Ward, A., Pietravalle, S.

**Preliminary analysis of the diet of wild boar (*Sus scrofa* L., 1758) in an agro-ecosystem of central Punjab, Pakistan** **229**
Hafeez, S., Ashfaq, M.

**Carcass weight, condition and reproduction of wild boars harvested in north-western Poland** **230**
Orłowska, L., Rembacz, W., Florek, C.

**Reproductive parameters, birth date-effect and body condition of wild boars (*Sus scrofa*) inhabiting forest and forest-farmland environments in Poland** **233**
Merta, D., Albrycht, M., Frąckowiak, W., Furtek, J., Mamok, T.

**List of Authors** **235**