

# *Canis lupus* LINNAEUS, 1758



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## Wolf

AL	Ujku	LT	Vilkas
BG	Вълк	LU	Wollef
CZ	Vlk	LV	Vilks
DE	Wolf	MK	Волк
DK	Ulv	MT	Lupu
EE	Hunt; Susi	NL	Wolf
ES	Lobo	NO	Ulv
FI	Susi	PL	Wilk
FO	Úlvur; Fjallaúlvur	PT	Lobo
FR	Loup	RO	Lup
GR	Λύκος	RU	Волк
HR	Vuk	SE	Varg
HU	Farkas	SI	Volk
IR	-	SK	Vlk dravý
IS	Úlfur	TR	Kurt
IT	Lupo	YU	Вук

## Distribution

**World:** Holarctic; in Eurasia from south-western and north-western Europe through Russia and central Asia (in the south to northern Arabia and India) to the coast of the Pacific Ocean. North America: Alaska, Canada, parts of the northern USA and an isolated population in Mexico.

**Europe:** originally throughout Europe. Now only isolated or small populations in the Iberian and Italian peninsula, French Alps and Fennoscandia. Widespread throughout Russia (except a large area around Moscow), the Baltic States, Belarus, northern Ukraine, eastern Poland, Slovakia, Romania and the mountains of the Balkan peninsula.

## Geographic variation

Six subspecies have been described from Europe, but only two of them are realistic: the nominate subspecies, *Canis lupus lupus* the 'timber wolf', from Fennoscandia to southern Europe and along the coniferous forest zone to Siberia, and *C. l. albus* Kerr, 1782, the light-coloured 'tundra wolf' which lived in northernmost Russia and perhaps also Fennoscandia. The 'timber wolf' includes the isolated southern populations, although Spanish wolves are slightly smaller and have a red-brown tinge in the fur colour. About 30 'tundra wolves' existed in the 1960s, but by the 1980s there was only a mixed population with the 'timber wolf'.

## Habitat

Mainly in the wide open woodlands and mountains. In

the northern coniferous zone often on large bog areas, and in Lapland and northern Russia on fells and tundra. Roaming or migrating wolves often follow the same routes along ridges and bog areas, where there is less snow. In southern and central Europe nowadays, because of persecution, only on mountains, mostly at a height of 600–2400 m.

## Population status

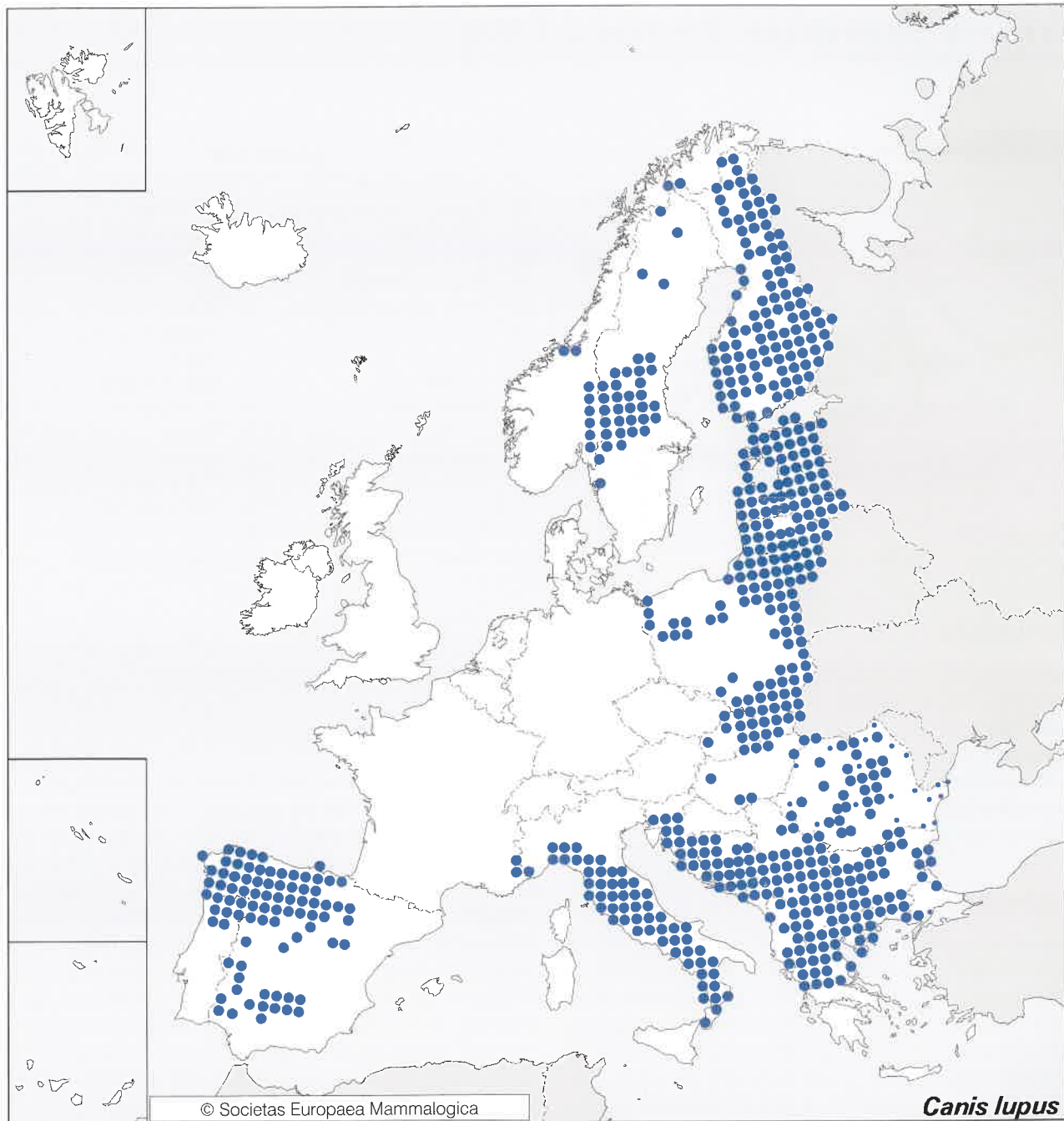
Exterminated long ago in most western and central European countries. Many recent populations fairly stable and some have even increased (Poland, Spain, Slovakia), but some small populations are endangered (Bulgaria, Sweden). Mountain populations of Spain, Portugal and Italy are isolated, probably also some others in the Balkan peninsula. In the 1990s about 300–400 individuals in Portugal, 2000 in Spain, 400–500 in Italy, 1000 in former Yugoslavia and 200–300 in Greece. A few are roaming in Norway, about 45–50 in Sweden and 150 in Finland. From the large population in Romania (2500, mainly in the Carpathians) about 700 are killed annually.

## International legal & conservation status

Bern Convention, Appendix II.

EU Habitats & Species Directive, Annex II\* & Annex IV, except Finnish populations, Spanish populations north of Duero and Greek populations north of the 39th parallel, Annex V.

CITES, Appendix II (reservation by Switzerland). EC 338/97, Annex A (except Spanish populations north of Duero



and Greek populations north of the 39th parallel, which are Annex B).

IUCN Red List, Vulnerable (Italy only), Lower Risk – conservation dependent (Spain and Portugal only).

### Other information

A territorial species, which lives in packs. The size of the territories varies usually between 700 and 1500 km<sup>2</sup>. In Europe, packs consist of usually fewer than 15 individuals but may comprise 20 or more in Canada and Alaska. Hunting tactics developed for catching cervids; domestic animals are also killed.

### Literature

- Bibikov (1988)
- Björvall (1983)
- Blanco *et al.* (1992)
- Hell (1990)
- Peters (1993)
- Pullainen (1974, 1980, 1985)
- Sörensen *et al.* (1986)
- Voskar (1983)

S. Sulkava & E. Pullainen