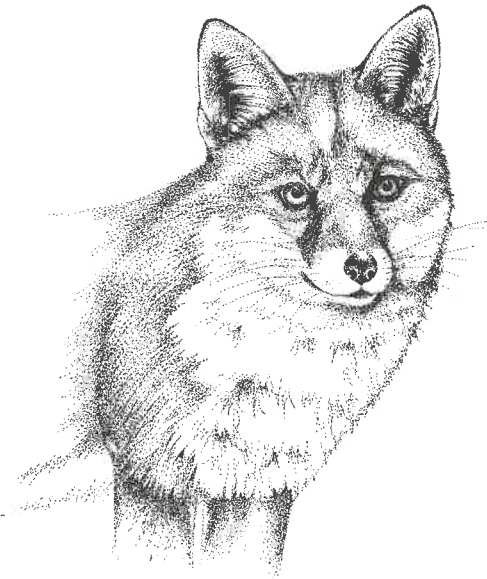


Vulpes vulpes (LINNAEUS, 1758)



V. Zadrazil

The red fox is the best investigated canid species in Europe and one of the most important fur animals.

Distribution

World: mainly Holarctic. Large area throughout the Palaearctic from north-western Africa to China and Japan. Arabian peninsula, north of Indian subcontinent, Sikkim and Bhutan. North America without the Arctic Islands. Introduced to Australia, various Pacific islands and the USA.

Europe: whole of Europe, except Crete and smaller Greek islands, Balearic Islands, Malta, Elba, Lipari, Outer Hebrides, Orkney, Shetland, Faroes and Iceland.

Geographic variation

Many subspecies, some of them without clear scientific diagnosis. In Europe not more than four or five subspecies (*V. vulpes vulpes*, *V. v. ichnusae* Miller, 1907, *V. v. silacea* Miller, 1907, *V. v. anatolica* Thomas, 1920, *V. v. hellenica* Douma-Petridou & Ondrias, 1980). A revision would be useful.

Habitat

The red fox is found in all types of forests and open landscapes; also very adaptable to urban and suburban ecosystems and feeding conditions. Vertical distribution up to 3000 m; limits of reproduction not well investigated.

Red fox

AL	Dhëlpërë	LT	Rudoji lapė
BG	Лисица	LU	Fuuss
CZ	Liška obecná	LV	Lapsa
DE	Rotfuchs	MK	Лисица
DK	Ræv	MT	Volpi
EE	Rebane	NL	Vos
ES	Zorro rojo	NO	Rev; Rødrev
FI	Kettu	PL	Lis
FO	Revur	PT	Raposa
FR	Renard roux	RO	Vulpe
GR	Αλεπού	RU	Обыкновенная лисица
HR	Lisica	SE	Räv
HU	Vörös róka	SI	Lisica
IR	Sionnach; Madra rua	SK	Liška hrdzavá
IS	Rauðrefur	TR	Tilki
IT	Volpe comune	YU	Лисица

Population status

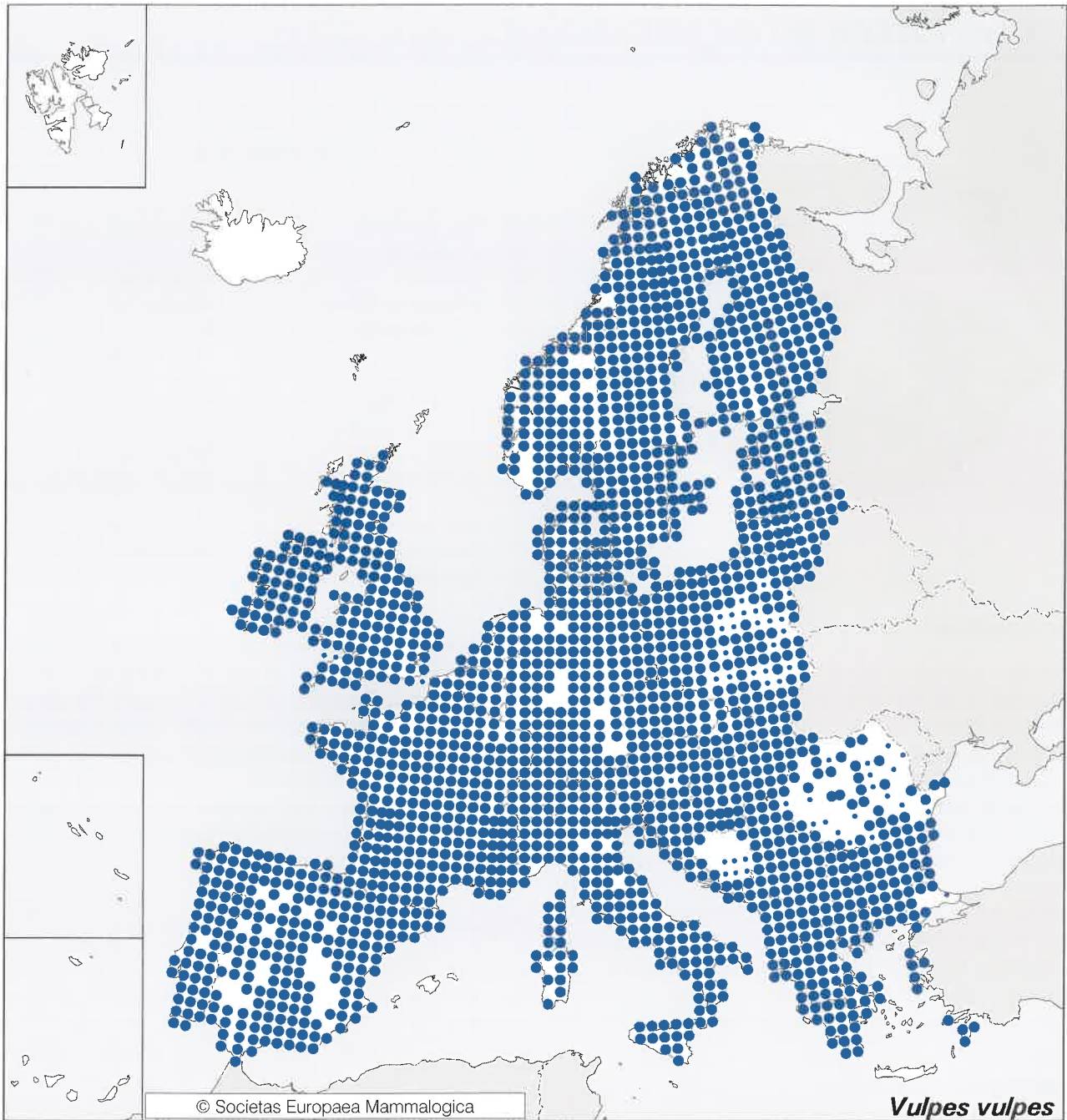
Stable populations everywhere. Spring population in Europe (without Russia) between 750000 and 1 million. In some countries greater fluctuations in population dynamics in connection with vole cycles and climatic conditions. In central Europe increasing populations through oral immunization of foxes against rabies.

International legal & conservation status

None.

Other information

In most European countries the red fox is a valuable quarry species and considered a pest of useful game animals. At present there is no important international fur market, and, in reaction to the rabies oral immunization as well as lack of hunting rewards, populations are increasing everywhere, also in human settlements. The pressure on protected species such as ground-breeding birds can be significant (e.g., in Germany). Main diet is small mammals, seasonally, but also omnivorous. In some regions the red fox is an important vector of rabies, trichinosis and echinococcosis (*Echinococcus multilocularis*). Social regulation of density only in non-exploited population structures. Maximum age 12 years; high reproduction rate with rapid population turnover.



Literature

- Labhardt (1990)
 Macdonald (1987)
 Stubbe (1982a)
 Stubbe (1989b)
 Wandeler & Lüps (1993)

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