

Sus scrofa LINNAEUS, 1758



Distribution

World: Palaearctic, throughout the broad-leaved forest and steppe zones of Europe, Asia and North Africa; Palaetropical in Asia, east to Greater Sunda Islands.

Europe: widely distributed in western and central Europe, but restricted to mountain areas in Portugal and Spain. Local but in increasing numbers in peninsular Italy, absent in southernmost parts of Greece. Among the Mediterranean islands, native in Corsica and Sardinia only. Disappeared from the British Isles and Scandinavia in the 17th century. Absent from European USSR (except the westernmost and Caucasian parts) before World War II, but then progressively extending northwards and eastwards, up to the Baltic region. Introduced populations in Sweden and Sicily. There are a few escaped individuals in England.

Geographic variation

At least 16 subspecies recognized worldwide, consisting of four geographical groups (Western, Indian, Eastern, and Indonesian). Within the western group, three subspecies are distinguished essentially on the basis of measurements, but appear to be just geographical or ecological variants, with a very low genetic diversity. Two isolated subspecies (*S. scrofa meridionalis* Forsyth Major, 1882 in Sardinia, *S. s. majori* de Beaux & Festa, 1927 in central Italy) have recently been identified as divergent from all other subspecies (including Eurasiatic domestic races) on the basis of the cytochrome B gene.

Wild boar

AL	Derri i eger	LT	Šernas
BG	Дива свиня	LU	Wëllt Schwaïn
CZ	Prase divoké	LV	Mežacūka
DE	Wildschwein	MK	Дива свиња
DK	Vildsvin	MT	Hanżir Salvaġġ
EE	Metssiga	NL	Wild zwijn
ES	Jabalí	NO	Villsvin
FI	Villisika	PL	Dzik
FO	Villsvín	PT	Javali
FR	Sanglier	RO	Mistreţ; Porc-sălbatic
GR	Αγριογούρουνο	RU	Кабан
HR	Divlja svinja	SE	Vildsvin
HU	Vaddisznó	SI	Divji prašič
IR	-	SK	Diviak lesný
IS	Villsvín	TR	Yaban domuzu
IT	Cinghiale	YU	Дивља свиња

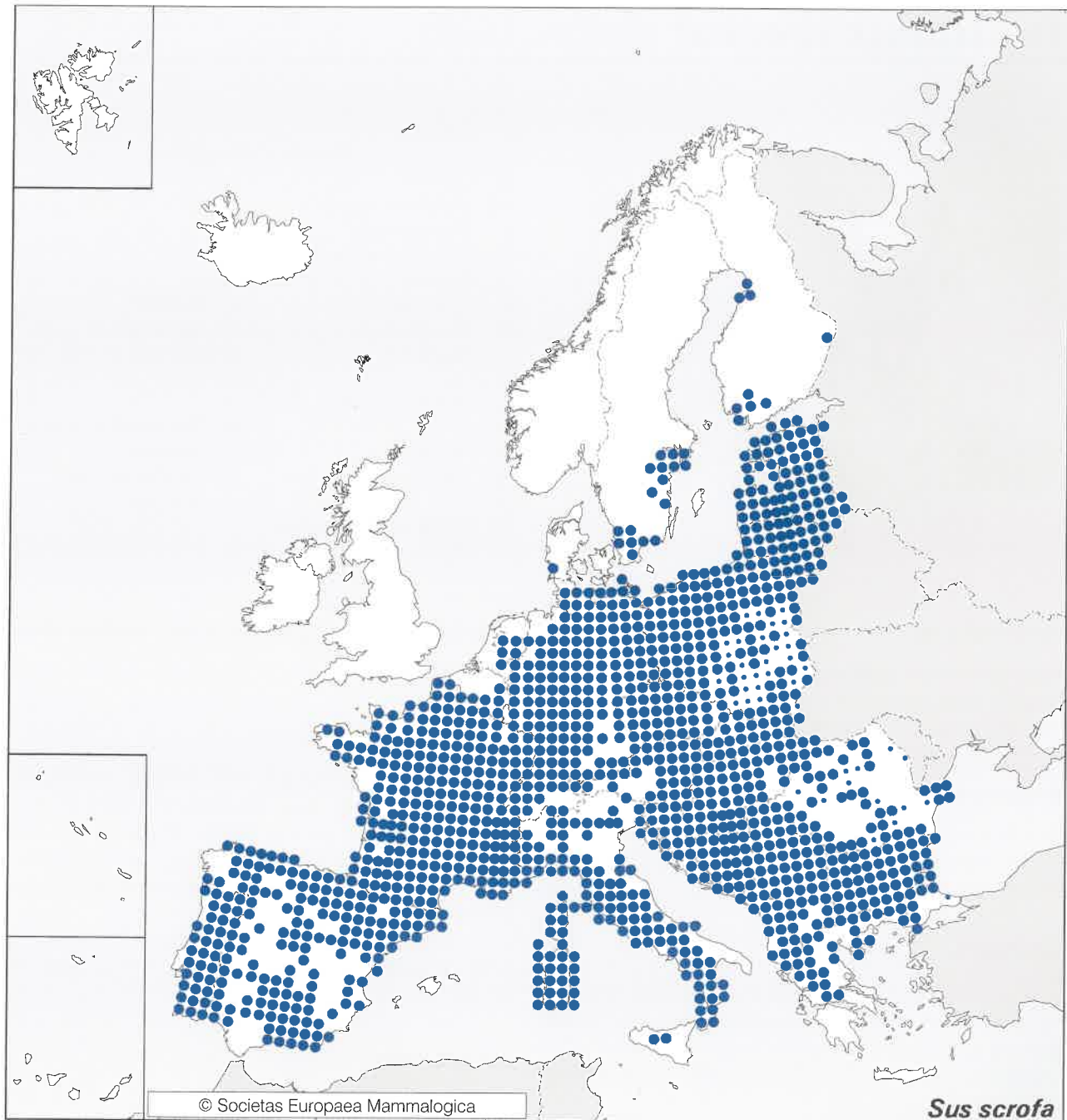
Wild boar in their whole range are polymorphic regarding their diploid number, with the basic formula with 38 chromosomes (the same as in domestic pig) throughout Asia to east and south-east Europe and Mediterranean islands, and variants with 36 chromosomes due to Robertsonian translocations. Only countries of central and western continental Europe show a majority of individuals with 36 chromosomes.

Habitat

A wide variety of habitats, in the temperate, tropical and equatorial zone. Wild boar seems to be primarily an inhabitant of the temperate broadleaved or tropical monsoon forests, thriving on wild fruit production. Extension into other biomes (taiga, steppe, mediterranean scrubland, open field areas) is always linked with the presence of riparian vegetation, water, and various sheltering habitats. Extension northwards in Russia and Fennoscandia would not have originated through climatic change but rather because of better survival during key periods through additional feeding, decreasing predation or reintroduction.

Population status

Populations increasing in numbers in the entire European range of the species. Particular isolated populations (e.g., *S. s. meridionalis* and *S. s. majori*) are not numerically threatened but deserve attention owing to the risk of hybridization.



International legal & conservation status

Bern Convention, Appendix III (*S. s. meridionalis* (Sardinia) only).

Randi *et al.* (1996)
 Saez-Royuela & Telleria (1986)

F. Spitz

Literature

- Bosma *et al.* (1991)
- Erkinaro *et al.* (1982)
- Fadeev (1981)
- Groves (1981)
- Oliver (1993, 1995)
- Randi (1995)