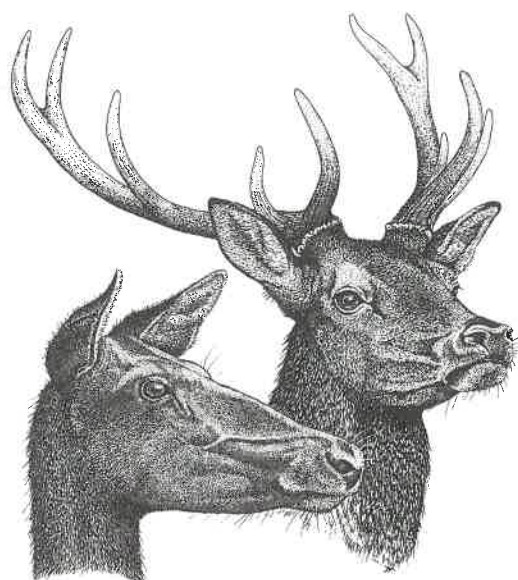


Cervus elaphus LINNAEUS, 1758



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Distribution

World: Holarctic species occurring in North Africa, Europe, most of the mountain ranges in central Asia, southern Siberia, the Far East, and North America. Introduced to Ireland, Chile, Argentina, Australia and New Zealand.

Europe: most of Europe, except northern Scandinavia, Finland, and certain Mediterranean islands. Extinct in Albania.

Geographic variation

Regarded as a typical polytypic species, with subspecies freely interbreeding to produce fertile offspring. In Europe, distinct subspecies occur particularly on big islands. Their size is usually smaller than in continental populations.

Habitat

Originally lived in open deciduous woodland; now occupies diverse habitats in woodlands, mountain forests, or open moorland. In the Alps and northern Europe moves above the tree line in summer. In Scotland adapted to living outside woodland. Mainly nocturnal; feeds by grazing and browsing. The diet includes heather and conifers in winter.

Population status

Gregarious species, living in herds with sexes separated for most of the year. The home range varies according to

Red deer

AL	Dreri	LT	Taurusis elnias
BG	Благороден елен	LJ	Hirsch
CZ	Jelen lesní	LV	Staltbriedis
DE	Rothirsch	MK	Обичен елен
DK	Krondyr	MT	-
EE	Punahirv	NL	Edelhert
ES	Ciervo rojo	NO	Hjort
FI	Saksanhirvi	PL	Jeleń szlachetny
FO	Krúnhjörtur	PT	Veado
FR	Cerf élaphe	RO	Cerb-nobil
GR	Ελάφι	RU	Благородный олень
HR	Jelen	SE	Kronhjort
HU	Gímszarvas	SI	Navadni jelen
IR	Fia rua	SK	Jeleň lesný
IS	Krónhjörtur	TR	Ulugeyik
IT	Cervo nobile	YU	Јелен

season and sex, and may extend to hundreds of hectares. Population density varies between 5 to 45 ind./km².

Populations in Britain, as well as in certain areas of the continent, hybridize with sika deer *Cervus nippon*. Many local populations affected by translocations and introductions of allochthonous individuals originated sometimes even from other continents.

International legal & conservation status

Bern Convention, Appendix II (*C. e. corsicanus* only), Appendix III.

EU Habitats & Species Directive, Annex II* & Annex IV (*C. e. corsicanus* only).

IUCN Red List, Endangered (*C. e. corsicanus* only).

Other information

May cause serious damage to forestry plantations at high population densities. Important game animal in most of Europe.

Literature

- Bützler (1986) – review
- Clutton-Brock *et al.* (1982)
- Dolan (1988)
- Lowe & Gardiner (1974)
- Trense (1989)
- Wermmer (1987)

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