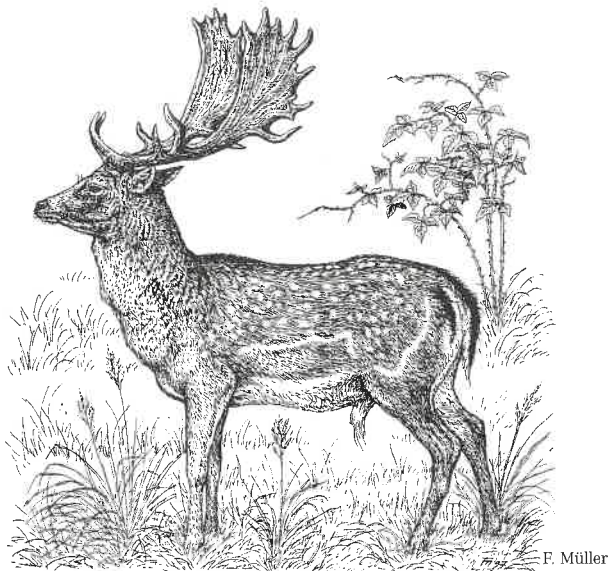


Dama dama (LINNAEUS, 1758)



Similar in appearance to the introduced *Cervus nippon* (especially females and yearlings), but can be distinguished by a different design of the rump patch that is clearly black and white, resembling an inverted anchor, and, in mature males, by the large palmate antlers.

Distribution

World: western Palaearctic; originally Turkey and possibly Macedonia. At the end of the last century and at the beginning of the present century introduced to South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, North and South America.

Europe: introduced by Phoenicians to the western Mediterranean and subsequently by Romans and Normans north of the Alps and to the British Isles. Now present in most European countries.

Geographic variation

Apart from wild-type colour, three other coats are common: black, white and 'menil'. The last is a paler version of wild-type, with more pronounced white spots and almost white head, neck and legs.

Habitat

Prefers Mediterranean open woods. Is able to flourish in a very hot and dry climate but is very adaptable to almost all ecological conditions; only alpine regions are definitely not suited for this species.

Fallow deer

AL	Dreri lobator	LT	Danielius
BG	Елен лопатар	LJ	Damhirsch
CZ	Daněk evropský	LV	Dambriedis
DE	Damhirsch	MK	Елен лопатар
DK	Dådýr	MT	-
EE	Kabehirv; Daamhirv	NL	Damhart
ES	Gamo	NO	Dåhjort
FI	Kuusipeura	PL	Daniel
FO	Dådýr	PT	Gamo
FR	Daim européen	RO	Cerbul-lopătar
GR	Πλατώρι	RU	Лань
HR	Jelen lopatar	SE	Dovhjort
HU	Dámszarvas	SI	Damjak
IR	Fia buí	SK	Daniel škvornitý
IS	Dådýr	TR	Alageyik
IT	Daino	YU	Јелен лопатар

Population status

Autochthonous populations in Turkey are endangered and a recovery programme has started. Introduced populations all around the world are stable or spreading. It is considered a pest in New Zealand. Fallow deer is a gregarious species and shows a variety of mating systems.

International legal & conservation status

Bern Convention, Appendix III.

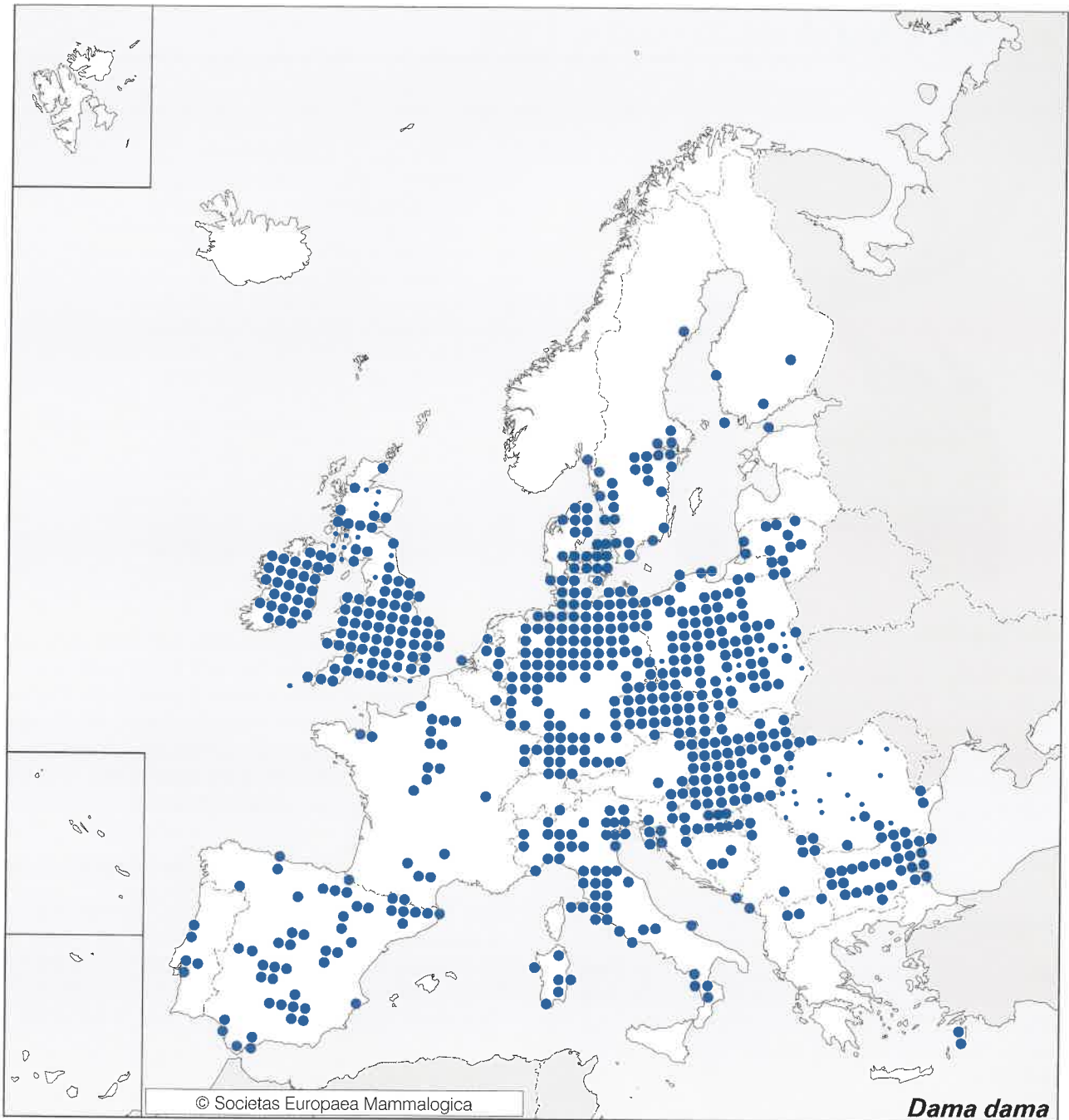
Other information

This species was often managed as a park ungulate and its semi-domesticated condition may explain the occurrence of many coat types. Hunting is allowed.

Literature

Chapman & Chapman (1985) – review
Feldhammer *et al.* (1988) – review
Heidemann (1986)
Langbein & Thirgood (1989)

M. Apollonio



Dama dama