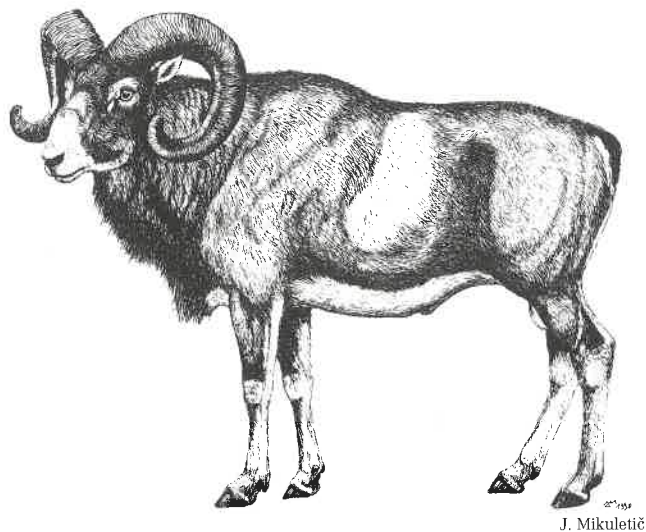


# *Ovis ammon* (LINNAEUS, 1758)



## Mouflon

|    |                           |    |                     |
|----|---------------------------|----|---------------------|
| AL | Dash i eger; Delja e eger | LT | Muflonas            |
| BG | Муфлон                    | LJ | Schof               |
| CZ | Muflon                    | LV | Muflons; Kalnu auns |
| DE | Mufflon                   | MK | Муфлон              |
| DK | Mufflon                   | MT | Naghġa              |
| EE | Uluklammas; Mägilammas    | NL | Moeflon             |
| ES | Muflón                    | NO | Mufflon             |
| FI | Mufloni                   | PL | Muflon              |
| FO | -                         | PT | Muflão              |
| FR | Mouflon méditerranéen     | RO | Muflon              |
| GR | Μουφλόν                   | RU | Европейский муфлон  |
| HR | Muflon                    | SE | Mufflon             |
| HU | Muflon                    | SI | Muflon              |
| IR | -                         | SK | Muflón hórny        |
| IS | Múflon                    | TR | Yaban koyunu        |
| IT | Muflone                   | YU | Муфлон; Дивља овца  |

Despite high phenotypic and karyotypic variation, the wild sheep which occurs from Europe to Mongolia belongs to only one species. In recent literature, the name *Ovis aries* may be used for this species. We avoid this, because the name was created for the domesticated form.

## Distribution

**World:** Corsica, Sardinia, Cyprus, Anatolia, Armenia, northern and eastern Iraq, Iran, Turkistan, Afghanistan south of the Hindu Kush, Pakistan west of the Indus, northern India, Pamir, the highlands of Tibet, through the Tien Shan mountains to the Gobi Altai mountains in Mongolia. As well as Europe, it has also been introduced into California, Texas, Hawaii, Argentina and the Kerguelens.

**Europe:** from the middle of the 18th century, mouflon from Corsica and Sardinia have been brought to continental Europe. Free-ranging herds are now present in Spain, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Denmark, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Slovenia, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Finland, Romania, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Macedonia, Yugoslavia and Ukraine (Crimea).

## Geographic variation

There is a remarkable increase in body size from west to east (in males: 35–180 kg; in females: 30–90 kg). Differences in body size, coat colour and the shape of

the horns have led to the description of more than 20 subspecies.

## Habitat

Much variation within the wide distribution range. Open hill areas, bushy landscapes, woods, semi-deserts, high mountains with cold deserts. Altitudes from 300 m up to 6100 m. The digestive system is of a grass-eating type. Different habitats and seasons produce a great adaptability to different foods: grasses, herbs, shrubs, leaves, sedges, sage, lichens, bark, wood, seeds and fruit.

## Population status

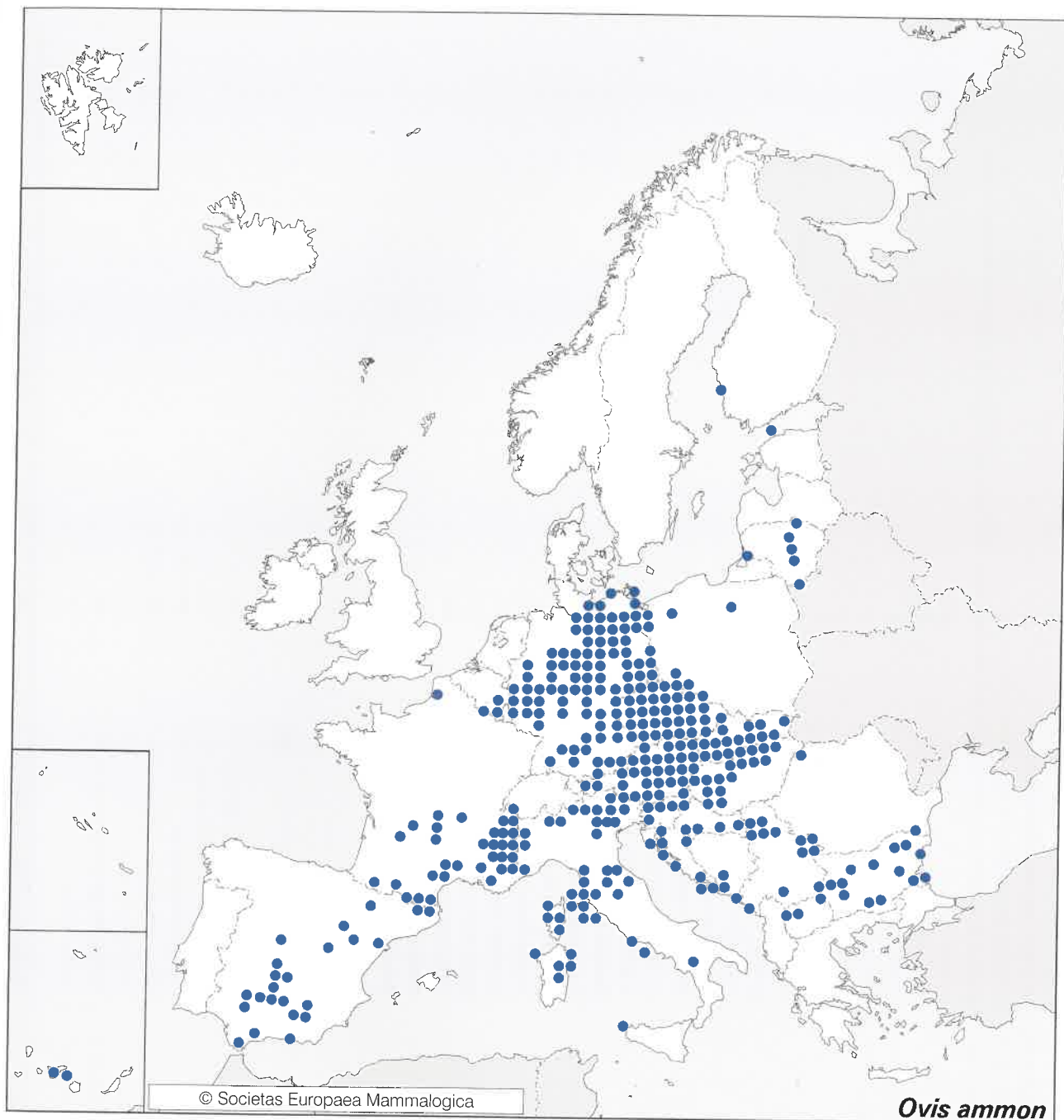
Very variable. On the whole, both numbers and distribution are decreasing. The reasons include: political changes in eastern Europe, revolutions and wars in Asia, illegal persecution and the introduction of domestic livestock into protected areas. Within Europe, well protected populations live on Corsica and Sardinia. Mouflon that have been introduced into other areas have a good chance of survival.

## International legal & conservation status

Bern Convention, Appendix III.

EU Habitats & Species Directive, Annex II & Annex IV (only natural populations on Corsica and Sardinia).

IUCN Red List, Vulnerable (only autochthonous populations).



### Other information

Hunted for trophies and meat. Introduced mouflon appear to have no great impact on other mammalian species. *Ovis ammon* is the ancestor of the domestic sheep.

### Literature

Herre & Röhrs (1955)  
 Röhrs (1986) – review

M. Röhrs