

First record of western hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) from Slovakia

JÁN KRIŠTOFÍK & ALŽBETA DAROLOVÁ

Institute of Zoology, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Dúbravská cesta 9, SK-845 06 Bratislava, Slovakia, tel. +421 2 59302616, fax +421 2 59302646, e-mail: jan.kristofik@savba.sk

Erinaceus europaeus L., 1758 is an endemic European species. Eastern border of its distribution runs from SW and C Scandinavia (it has been introduced to Finland) through W Poland, C and E Moravia, W and C Austria, W Slovenia and Italy (LAPINI, 1999). According to ANDERA (2000), in Moravia the eastern border of the western hedgehog runs from the Moravskoslezské Beskydy Mts (Radvanov – Jablunkov) through the Dolnomoravský úval dale (Uherské Hradiště, Polešovice) up to the Mikulovská vrchovina highlands (fishpond Nesyt near Sedlec). The latest records of the western hedgehog from Moravia have been made by HORAL (in litt.) in the Dolnomoravský úval dale (1.6 km easterly of confluence of the river Morava and Dyja, near the village of Lanžhot) and in the area of Biele Karpaty (Žitková – the settlement Doliny, in surroundings of the Mlýnky settlement – under foot of the Mandát hill, Suchové Mlýny – under National Nature Reserve Jazevčí and Suchové Mlýny – the settlement Čerešnický Mlýn). They indicated this species can also occur in Slovakia.

Our finding of western hedgehog comes from 5.VII.2004 from the area of Chvojnická pahorkatina hills, where we found one freshly knocked individual on the road between Skalica and Mokřý Háj (surroundings of Mokřý Háj, 48°49'25" N, 17°14'28" E, altitude 290 m). Biometrical data of this individual are the following: weight 1.100 g, total body length 276 mm, tail length 35 mm and length of back tarsus 48 mm. When dissecting the individual, we have found that it

is a male. The individual examined has been identified according to dark brown V-shaped patch spreading from the nose to eyes (the s. c. oculars), colouring of the ventral body side and of needles. Identification has also been made on the base of the following anatomic characters: shape of the frontal and nasal bones, shape of the angular and joint processes (ANDERA & HORÁČEK, 1982; DUNGEL & GAISLER, 2002). The skin and cranium are deposited in collections of the Slovak National Museum in Bratislava.

This is the first verified and published record of western hedgehog in Slovakia. It suggest a possible further spreading of this species toward the East.

References

- ANDERA, M. 2000. Atlas rozšíření savců v České republice. Předběžná verze III. Hmyzožravci (Insectivora). Národní muzeum, Praha, 108 pp.
- ANDERA, M. & HORÁČEK, I. 1982. Poznáváme naše savce. Mladá fronta, Praha, 254 pp.
- DUNGEL, J. & GAISLER, J. 2002. Atlas savců České a Slovenské republiky. Academia, Praha, 150 pp.
- LAPINI, L. 1999. *Erinaceus europeus* Linnaeus, 1758, pp. 38-39. In: MITCHELL-JONES, A. J., AMORI, G., BOGDANOWICZ, W., KRYŠTUFEK, B., REIJNDERS, P. J. H., SPITZENBERGER, F., STUBBE, M., THISSEN, J. B. M., VOHRALÍK V. & ZIMA, J. (eds) Atlas of European Mammals, The Academic Press, London, 496 pp.

Received September 7, 2004
Accepted September 28, 2004