

FACTORS THAT LIMIT THE NUMBER OF WILD BOARS (*Sus scrofa* L.) IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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Observations carried out in the course of more than 30 years on the Wild boar in natural conditions in Moldova allow us to express our opinion about factors limiting the numerical strength of this species. The number of wild boars varies from several hundreds to 10-12 thousands in Moldova. This variation depends on climatic, anthropogenic, epidemic and, to a certain degree, biocenotic factors.

The climatic factors play a decisive role; a humid and fresh climate is favourable for wild boars. This fact obviously leads to a widening of the habitat and intense reproduction of the species. Drowning of numerous sucking boars from populations of reed plantations has been

registered (Pruth river valley). Winters with too much snow have a negative effect: 40 cm layer limits Wild boar movements (e.g. when searching for food).

The anthropogenic factors have a many sided action and alongside a decisive role in the determination of the numbers of the wild boars. Poaching is very spread in Moldova. Feral dogs and foxes represent a danger for young specimens.

Epidemics can have a negative influence with a cyclic effect. From the sixties to the nineties two plague epidemics have been registered and in both cases the numerical effective have reached the minimal level.