

## THE EXPANSE OF THE WILD BOAR HABITAT IN SLOVENIA

Krže B.

Hunting association of Slovenia, Zupanciceva, 9, 61000 Ljubljana, Slovenia.

**Keywords:** Wild boar, *Sus scrofa*, Suidae, Ecological project.

IBEX J.M.E. 3:147

Since 1978 and 1982 respectively, in two hunting-grounds measuring approximately 4,000 hectares each a field study of the expanse of the Wild boar habitat was carried out. The entire project which has not been concluded yet, is carried out in an area, where Red and Roe deer are the most important game species, and where the environment is still in a pretty good shape, though the first consequences of the man's activities already begin to show themselves. The main objective of our research was to establish the expanse, and the characteristics of Wild boar habitats, as well as ecological and ethological properties of this game species.

For this purpose wild boars were trapped in special catching sets, marked with ear-tags, and released immediately. Animals were caught by skilled personnel, using only mechanical catching devices so that there were practically no losses. With regard to the feeding conditions wild boars were caught mainly in autumn, and partly in spring. It is also possible to do this in summer, of course, but we made the same experience as it is mentioned in the literature, namely that sows bite of tags from the ears of their piglets during social care. Generally we

used plastic tags, and marking tongs "Dalton". Till the end of October 1993, about 160 animals, mainly piglets, have been caught. For more than a half of them we collected feedback information (the place where they have been taken, the weight of the animal, its social rank, etc.).

The first research area lies approximately 70 km south-east of Ljubljana at 300-350 m u.s.l. in a typical karst landscape with predominately leafy woods with rich undergrowth. Though there is a lot of food throughout the year, wild boars are fed in order to prevent game damage. The second area lies approximately 25 km west of Ljubljana (south of the Ljubljana-Postojna highway) at approximately 700 m u.s.l.. The fir and the beech are the predominant tree species here. The natural food for the wild boars is rather scarce. Here, too, wild boars are fed throughout the year. In both areas the bear and the lynx are sedentary game; the wolf appears rarely.

The data we collected mainly confirm that some animals, first of all adult males, have big areas, while others, mainly sows, are quite happy with smaller ones.