

Differentiation in individual quality of roe deer from field and forest hunting districts in the Lublin Upland

Summary

The study on the individual quality of roe deer from the Lublin Upland was conducted on the basis of body weight of adult males and females and young deer acquired in the hunting season of 2008/2009. Additionally, in the case of adult males, antler weight was taken as an auxiliary element of the assessment. A notable variation was observed in body weight and antler weight of roebucks acquired in the field and forest hunting districts. Both in terms of body weight and antler weight, there was a domination of individuals acquired in the field hunting districts. The coefficient of correlation between body weight and antler weight assumed the highest values for roebucks from the forest hunting districts ($r_{xy}=0.73$), which indicates that in the case of greater availability of feeding base as well as its higher differentiation and quality, as encountered in field hunting districts, the correlation between body weight and antler weight is lower. Body weight of roe deer females increased in the course of their individual lives and, similarly as in the case of the males, in most of age groups, females from the field districts were dominating in terms of that trait. Also, young deer from the field districts were characterized by greater body weight, irrespective of their sex, the difference in the case of young females being almost 2 kg. During the hunting seasons included in the study, the body weight of males and females in the youngest age group tended to increase, while that of older age groups decreased, which in the case of the males was related to the ongoing rut, while in the case of the females with the winter period, and at the final stage of the hunting season also with the development of embryos.