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## CONTRIBUTIONS ON THE BALKAN LYNX *Lynx lynx martinoi* (Mirić, 1978) IN MACEDONIA AND MONTENEGRO

**Извод:** Прилози о балканском рису *Lynx lynx martinoi* (Мирећ, 1978) у Македонији и Црној Гори. Дати су нови подаци о балканском рису *Lynx lynx martinoi* (Мирећ, 1978) на подручју Црне Горе и Македоније сакупљени током истраживања у периоду од преко две последње деценије. Прикупљени су нови подаци о распрострањености и бројности (дати су локалитети и време налаза — посматрања, трагови, ухваћене, убијене и мртве јединке и индиције о присуству) и белешке о њиховој биологији (станиште, исхрана и понашање) ове врсте на проучаваном подручју. На основу свих познатих података, дате су нове процене бројности, тренда и главних проблема заштите ове високоугрожене подврсте риса на подручју Македоније и Црне Горе.

**Кључне речи:** рис, стање, биологија, Македонија, Црна Гора.

**Abstract:** This paper presents new data on Balkan Lynx *Lynx lynx martinoi* (Mirić, 1978) in the region of Montenegro and Macedonia, which were collected in the course of research during more than two last decades. New data include status (observations and records, tracks, specimens killed or found dead, as well as indications on possible presence) and recordings on Balkan Lynx biology (habitat, diet and behavior) in the researched area. All known data were used to make new estimates on population size, trends and main protection problems for this highly endangered Lynx subspecies in Macedonia and Montenegro.

**Key words:** Lynx, status, biology, Macedonia, Montenegro

### INTRODUCTION

Balkan Lynx *Lynx lynx martinoi* (Mirić, 1978) is one of the most endangered subspecies or populations of this species in the world (Breitenmosser-Wursten & Breitenmosser 2001). Its present distribution is extremely reduced and includes smaller areas of Serbia (Kosovo-Metohija and possibly periodically in Raška area), Montenegro, northeastern and eastern parts of Albania, western and southwestern parts of Macedonia, and possibly some areas of northern Greece (Mirić 1981, Grubač 2000, Paunović et al. 2001, Hristovski 2001, Bego 2001, Panayotopoulos 2001). Present status of this subspecies in Macedonia and Montenegro is insufficiently known, although

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new data and estimates are published (Micevski 1997, Hristovski 2001, Paunović et al. 2001). The biology of this subspecies or population is also relatively little known and studied (Mirić 1981, Grubač 2000).

Author has collected data on Balkan Lynx during field research in region of Macedonia and Montenegro for the period of several decades. The collected data represent the continuity of studies on status and biology of Balkan Lynx in the region of Former Yugoslavia (Mirić 1981, Micevski 1997, Grubač 2000, Hristovski 2001, Paunović et al. 2001). Most of these data were collected by questionnaire given to experts (biologists, forestry and hunting officials), specially trained associates on the field, as well as local community. The detailed description of used method (questionnaires and/or interviews) and the problems of its use and gathered results have been already discussed and presented in papers by Mirić (1981) and Grubač (2000).

As status and biology of Balkan Lynx is very little known from the territories of Macedonia and Montenegro (and Balkans as a whole), author here presents new data collected during his more than two decades of research.

## RESULTS

### Survey of data on lynx in Macedonia

#### Šar planina

Mountaineer J. Božinovski from Tetovo claims that he encountered a Lynx in gorge Pena near Brodec during summer in 1980-ies (1988?). Shepherd A. Murati (questionnaire from 1987) from village Vešala claims that Lynx lives around the village Vešala and on massifs of Crni Vrh on Šar planina. Water facility security officer P. Jovanovski from village Pečkovo saw a lynx in oak forest near the Gragol rock, above the hydrocentral "Vrutok", during winter 1978-9. According to the statement of an interviewed shepherd, a Lynx was seen in beech forest at above 1200 m above sea level near village Gorne Jelovce near Gostivar during 1996.

#### Adžina reka

According to the questionnaire administered by V Maletić, a Lynx was seen by game warden in the region of Adžina River, on locality Leunska šuma — Armiski Kamen, Prisojnica, in November 2000.

#### Korab Mt.

G. Džukić (voce viva) found tracks of a Lynx in the mud in a deciduous forest (beech and other trees) near the army barracks "Strezimir" on Korab (along the path toward the Kobiljo polje) on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 1996.

#### Gorge of Radika

Forestry officer Daut Zuberi (viva voce, 1983) from Žužanj claims that he found a dead Lynx in gorge of Radika below the Torbeški Bridge during 1980-ies.

Hunter G Ololovski (viva voce) saw three Lynxes near Boškov Bridge in March of 1980. One animal jumped over the road in front of the field vehicle moving through the gorge.

### Area of Mavrovo

V Maletić (viva voce) observed Lynx tracks in mud on the upper timberline of beech forest in area of Mavrovo, toward Bistra Mt, during October-November 1991.

According to M Hristovski (viva voce) a Lynx was found injured on the road and then killed near Mavrovi Anovi in late September – early October 2000. The animal was meant for making a trophy, and was in the freezer at the unknown person's. This person was interested to make a trophy in Natural History Museum in Skopje (S Petkovski, voce viva).

### Mountain Bistra

Serafim Serafimovski, maker of dermoplastic preparates (voce viva 1985) from Skopje cites that a hunter E Ristovski from village Gari killed a male Lynx near village Sušice during 1970-ies. The trophy of this animal has been kept in the private collection in village Kosovrasti near Debar.

G Ololovski (viva voce) claims that a Lynx was caught in a trap at the locality Lokva on Mt. Bistra near Lazaropole about 1979-80.

G Ololovski also cites that a Lynx was killed on Kozjak near village Gari about 1970. The hunters came upon it while it was feeding on discarded remains of chamois (guts and other intestines). The Lynx didn't run away but remained at its prey in the defending position. Same respondent has observed Lynx in same locality about 1982, when it sprang in direction of a small group of chamois passing under the beech tree on which the beast was hiding. In spite of the giant leap, this hunting attempt was unsuccessful.

Interviewed hunters (1986) claimed that Lynx lives in the forests near village Rosoki and near the river mouth around village Tresonče.

Entomologist V Krpač (viva voce) observed a Lynx in dusk on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 1997, in an ancient beech forest on locality of Koritnik near the peak Mečkin Kladenac (1703 m above sea level) at Lazaropole; he assumes that the animal was drinking from a stream.

G Ololovski (viva voce) saw 2 Lynxes (probably a pair in mating season) in February 2000, in the forest near Glavino Selo (along the road between villages Rosoki and Lazaropole); one individual run into the forest while the other climbed a tree where it stood in a threatening pose.

### Surrounding of Debar

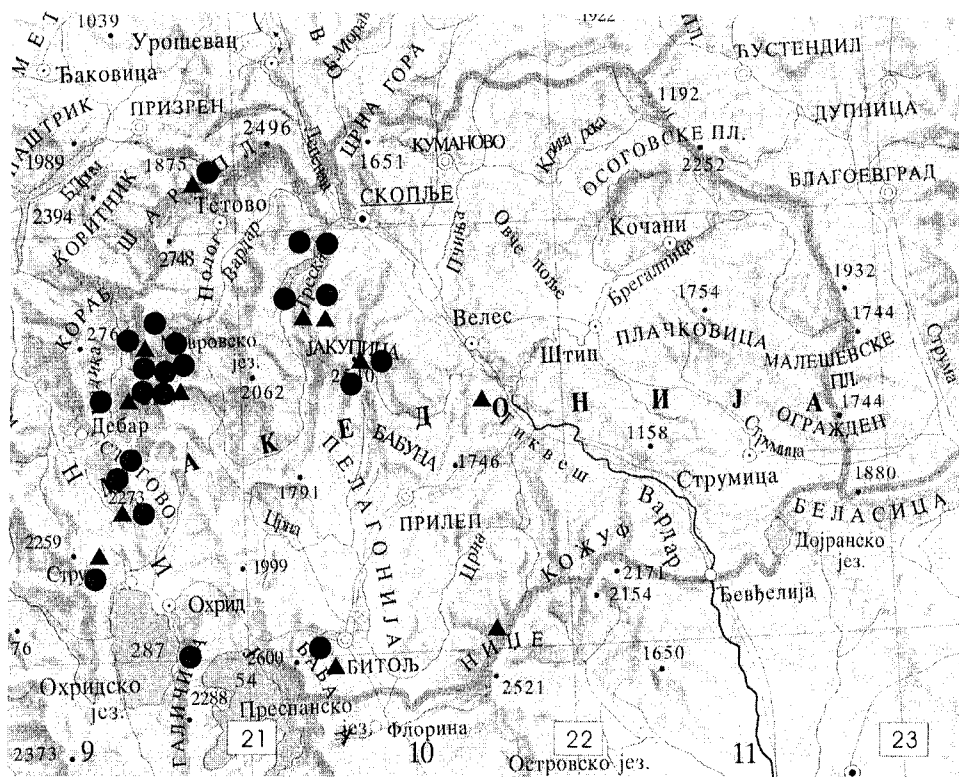
According to the interviewed shepherds (in 1986), Lynx lives in forests near Albanian border around Debar. No localities were cited.

### Mt. Stogovo

Several interviewed shepherds from Stogovo confirmed that in 1986 Lynx used to live in three localities in the area: in Kodžadžička Forest on the western side of the mountain, in direction of mountain Kara Orman and in forests above the village Melničani. S. Petkovski (viva voce) found Lynx tracks in the forest at about 1500 m above sea level on Stogovo at December 12<sup>th</sup>, 1996.

### Mt. Kara Orman

Shepherd Ašir Tafovski (viva voce 1986) claims that hunters Sevdan and Faris Ismailovski killed a Lynx in December 1984 near the village Dolgan on Mt. Kara Orman. The interviewed hunter (anonymous, 1985) from Struga claims that Lynx used to dwell on locality Lokva on Mt Kara Orman during 1985.



Мапа 1: Дистрибуција или налази балканског риса у Македонији

Map 1: Distribution or records of Balkan Lynx in Macedonia

Опажена јединка или трагови (означено кружићем) – Observed specimen or tracks (marked with circle)

Убијена или мртва јединка (означено троуглом) – Animal killed or found dead (marked with triangle)

Индикције, приче и други подаци (знак питања) – Indications, stories and other data (question mark)

#### Mt. Jablanica

Several interviewed hunters and locals (1985) from Gornja Belica and other villages claim that hunters in vicinity of village Vevčani killed a Lynx in 1984. Another Lynx was also seen 3 or 4 times near the village Gornja Belica in last few years.

#### Treske Gorge and Mt. Suva Gora

Mountaineer Ivan Žeževski from Skoplje claims that he has seen Lynx tracks in snow in Treska Gorge (Matka) above the Monastery of St. Andrija (St. Andrew) during the winter 1993-4. Hunter S Stojanovski from Matka claims that he saw a juvenile Lynx in Treska Gorge near Kozjak on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 1998, while it was eating fish (*Chondrostoma sp.*). V Maletić claims that he saw a Lynx in daylight in the oak forest on locality Ivanje (700-800 m above sea level) on Suva Gora Mt in November 1995.

#### Mt. Karadžica

Game warden Stojan Ginovski from Tetovo claims that an adult lynx was caught in a steel trap on Karadžica during 1981.

Shepherd Nuradin Zajmovski from Patiška Reka claims that a juvenile Lynx was torn into pieces by dogs on Karadžica above the village Patiška Reka in period 1984-5. He also claims that there are two specimens in forests around Patiška Reka and Karadžica during 1986.

D Rolevski (viva voce) observed a lynx at the roadside near the crossroads of villages Pusta Breznica and Pateška Reka on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2000. In dawn time, the animal stood for awhile beside the road and then disappeared in the forest.

#### Mt. Solunska glava

The anonymous guard of Mountaineer's Home „Čeples” cites that he came upon a Lynx in the forest near the spring Babune during winter 1980. The animal jumped right in front of him onto the rock about 5 m high and stared at him “hypnotically”. After a short observation, the Lynx calmly moved on. When the man tried to shoo it away by waving a stick, the animal jumped onto the rock again. The person said that he felt a panic attack at the time.

Game warden Aco Najdovski from Teovo claims that a lynx was killed in the area between Nežilovo and Mountaineer's Home “Čeples” about 1981. Animal was shot in beech forest while it was upon a beech tree. Hunter Dimitrije Danevski from Dračevo also claims that Lynx lived in forests around Babuna spring below Solunska Glava during 1986.

Game warden Aco Najdovski claims that, according to his notes, there were two or three Lynxes on Jakupica Mt. (on localities Solunska glava, Monrov and Kurtovica).

Hunter K Petrovski (2002) cites stories of hunters and locals that Lynx is regularly met with in direction of Solunska glava — Jakupica — Preslap; a Lynx was reportedly seen near Preslap (vicinity of village Jabolčište) in the beech and mugo pine forest during 2000.

#### Jasenova glava

According to the notes of K Petrovski (voce viva) a Lynx (probably a juvenile female) was killed by hunters in a small copse of oak and hornbeam near the village Beljak near Jasenova glava (Jasenovo above the village Smiljevci toward Nikodin) during November or December of 1995/6.

#### Mt. Galičica

V Maletić has interviewed a villager who claimed that he spotted a Lynx on Mt. Galičica during 1986-7. There are no precise data for Lynx on Mt Galičica.

#### Mt. Pelister

Hunter Sotir Naumovski from village Nižepole claims that a Lynx was killed about 1985 in area of this mountain.

V Maletić cites game wardens claiming that they have positively determined a lynx they sighted in forests on Mt Pelister during autumn 1993.

In area of NP “Pelister” and the broader vicinity of this mountain, there are at maximum 5-6 individuals, according to records and estimates of Management of NP (for 2002); warden of NP Iljo Starjevski observed a Lynx in a forest of Macedonian (molika) pine (*Pinus peuce*), at about 1800 m above sea level, on locality Jiroka above the village Capari, in spring 2001.

#### Mt. Kajmakčalan

The interviewed Army officer (1986) claimed that Lynx lives in forests of Kajmakčalan but cites no locality or data source. There are stories that hunters from Bitole killed a lynx in this area

in late 1990-ies. Hunters and game warden interviewed in 2002 claim that there are no recent sightings, but they don't deny the possibility that Lynx might be present.

## Lynx in Montenegro

### Mts. Prokletije

V Đuričanin from Plav interviewed hunters who claimed they found tracks and observed a Lynx in the forests near Maja Nedžinat in period 1980–1990.

Interview by V Dašić shows that a lynx was observed in forests around Hridsko Jezero Lake about 1980. According to V Đuričanin from Plav, a male Lynx was killed in 1987 on Bogićevica (Prokletije Mts) near locality of Đuricki katuni.

Forestry Officer A Gagić from Gusinje claims that he saw Lynx tracks near Vusanje during 1991.

According to Slobodan Lutovac (Army officer), hunters regularly found lynx tracks in snow in Grbaja Valley above the mountaineer's home and army barracks. Last time, they were seen during the winter 2000/2001. The mountaineers heard unusual growling of some beast (possibly a Lynx?) above the Grbaja Valley toward Maja Karanfili during the night of July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2002.

According to interviewed hunters, Lynx tracks were seen in snow on the rocks (with small caves abound) on ridge of Trojan (on Albanian border) during winter, about 1987. Hunter Jaćir Radonjić from Gusinje has also seen lynx tracks on rocks in the same area (at above 2000 m above sea levels) during the winter 1997-8.

### Mt. Visitor and gorge of Lim

Hunter Miljan Šoškić from Andrijevisa cites old hunters' stories that Lynx used to live on Zeletin between I and II world wars, when in this area there were many chamois and other game. Several interviewed hunters think that Lynx might still live in area of Visitor.

Interviewed hunters claim that a Lynx was observed on rocks of Suteska near the village Luge near Andrijevisa about 1992.

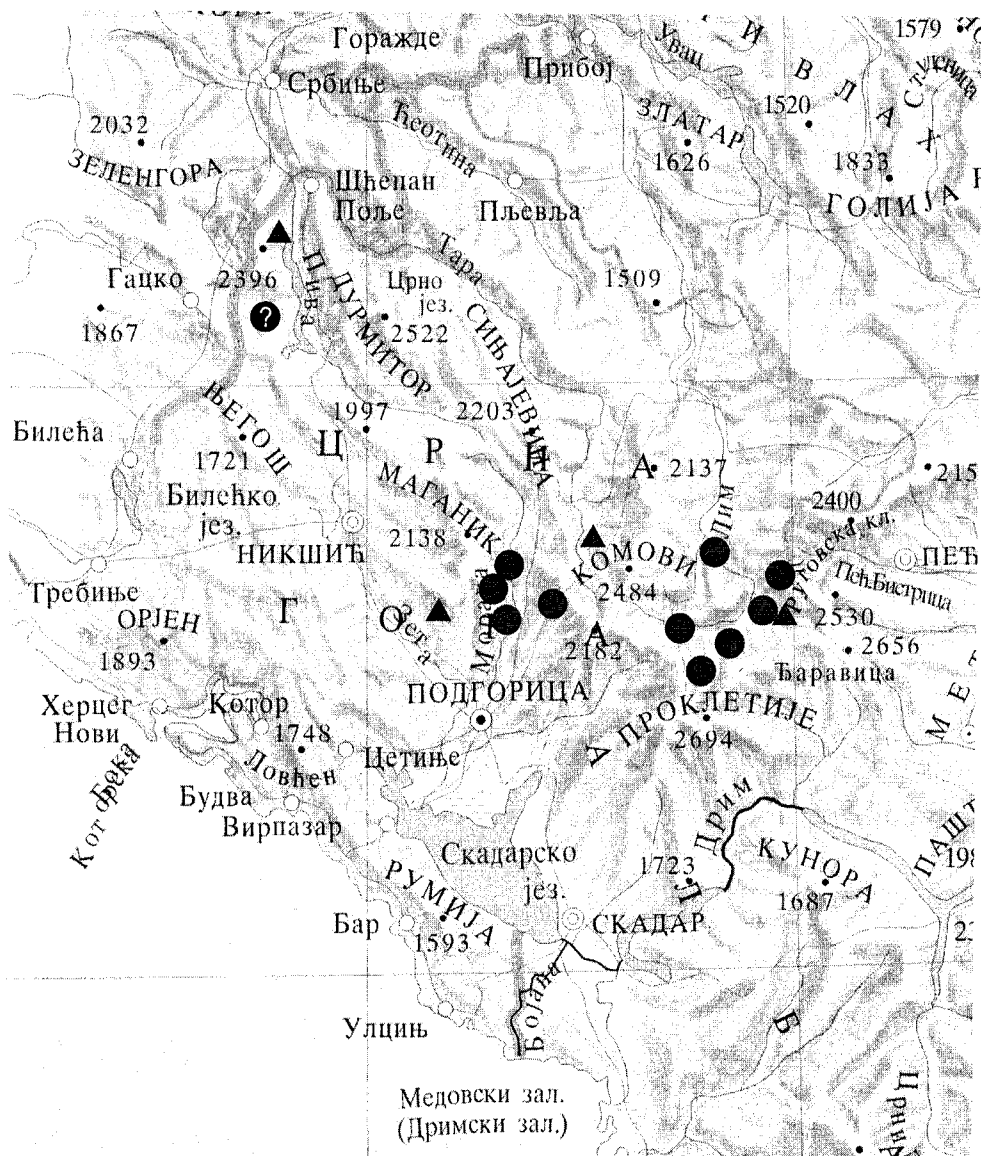
### Mt. Komovi

Hunter V Gilić from Podgorica shot a male Lynx on Mt. Komovi in late December 1974. Animal was killed on locality Turjak in mixed beech and fir forest at about 1200 m above sea level. The dermoplastic specimen is now in private collection of V Gilić. The late hunter Ilija Dabetić from Opanonica has also shot a female Lynx on Komovi during January 1980. It is possible that his family still keeps the fur of shot beast.

### Area of Morača and Mala Rijeka

According to notes of hunter Božo Vučinić from Podgorica, hunters shot at a Lynx and probably got it wounded on locality Riječki Brotnik about 1987; the wounded animal hid inside a small cave or hole in the rocks, and hounds could not pull it out or kill. Before this hunt, remains of killed prey animals (roe deer) were regularly found in the area. Another Lynx was, according to the same correspondent, killed around Morača River near locality Glava during 1984.

According to B Vučinić, a Lynx was observed on the rocks of Gorge Morača — Platija near village Štavalj around 1998.



Мапа 2: Дистрибуција или налази балканског риса у Црној Гори  
 Map 2: Distribution or records of Balkan Lynx in Montenegro

Опажена јединка или трагови (означено кружићем) – Observed specimen or tracks (marked with circle)  
 Убијена или мртва јединка (означено троуглом) – Animal killed or found dead (marked with triangle)  
 Индиције, приче и други подаци (знак питања) – Indications, stories and other data (question mark)

The interviewed hunters from Danilovgrad killed a Lynx on Mt. Studenovo during 2001. They also assume that 1 or 2 individuals may live on Kamenik.

According to the questionnaire by V. Gilić, there are inductions that lynx lived in area of Piperska River (tributary of Morača) during 2000.

V Gilić cites the interviewees who claimed that it was probably Lynx that killed 2-3 goat kids in the area of canyon of Mala Rijeka during 2000. Lynx tracks were also seen in this area. There are indications that a Lynx was killed in the canyon above the village Klopot during 1997-8.

#### Area of Piva and Plužine

According to the questionnaire by V Gilić, there are indications that Lynx lived in area of Piva River Gorge during 2000. This was confirmed later when a male Lynx was killed on locality Pivska strana (above the Piva River Gorge toward the slopes of Mts Maglič and Volujak) in late February 2002.

According to unconfirmed stories, a juvenile female lynx was caught in vicinity of Plužine in 2000.

#### Vicinity of Bijelo Polje

There are unconfirmed stories about killing of Lynx/Lynxes in area of Bijelo Polje during the winter of 2000. Mirić (1981) claims that Lynxes appeared in this area (vicinity of Tomaševo, Burenj Mt) during March of 1976.

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

In this "contribution" numerous numerical data on status and partially biology of Balkan Lynx were given for the territory of Macedonia and Montenegro. The gathered results contribute to better understanding of present situation with this highly endangered and poorly studied Lynx subspecies in the studied area and range.

Data gathered for area of Macedonia show that this species is regularly met in area of Mavrovo and Mt Bistra (on several localities / territories), Korab, Jar Planina (3-4 specimens on various territories / localities), Adžina Reka, Gorge of Radika (on at least two localities / territories), vicinity of Debar, Stogovo and Kara Orman (on several localities / territories), Gorge of Treska, Karadžica, Jakupica (2-3 locations), Pelister (several individuals), Galičica, and possibly also Kajmakčalan. Appearance of a juvenile Lynx on Jasenova glava can be considered dispersion of juvenile individuals outside of main range of the species (wanderers from area of Solunska glava or Babuna Mt.). According to all new data in this paper, as well as literature (Micevski 1997, Hristovski 2001), present population numbers of Balkan Lynx in area of Macedonia can be estimated at about 35-40 specimens. Estimate by Micevski (1997) of 54 specimens for broader area of Radika can be assumed to be an overestimate. The freshest estimate (Hristovski 2001) of 30-35 specimens can on the other hand be considered to be an underestimate. The latter paper lack any data for Lynx presence in area of gorge of Treska, Karadžica and massif of Jakupica, where this species is certainly present and from where several data were collected that are presented in this paper. The freshest research and data show that there is a slight decrease in population numbers due to poaching (shooting and traps) and very rarely traffic and other causes. Also, various forms of habitat degradation (timbering and destroying of forest, as well as other forms of degradation and habitat loss) and reduction of food sources (due to overhunting of game animals) are present in smaller degree (as Balkan Lynx mostly lives within protected or completely "wild" areas). In present period (2000-2002) one of the most important areas for Balkan Lynx (northeastern and western parts of Macedonia)



are in the zone of ethnic conflicts and possible larger warfare. This can be projected to very negative effects on conservation of this species, due to impossibility to control poaching or other negative activities.

Data gathered for Montenegro show that Lynx is regularly met in area of Prokletije Mts (several locations / territories), Komovi, area of Morača and Mala Rijeka Rivers (on several locations / territories), area of Piva River and possibly in area of Visitor and gorge of Lim River, and vicinity of Bijelo Polje. According to Paunović et al. (2001) it was also recorded in area of Durmitor and Sinjajevina Mts. Population numbers can be estimated to 10-12 specimens (maximum). It is assumed that Lynx population in Montenegro is still on critical minimum (on verge of extinction). Main threats are shooting (poaching) and trapping. Another problem is great reduction of main food sources due to overhunting of game animals that are lynx's principal prey (chamois, roe deer, hares etc).

One of large potential problems for conservation of autochthonous Balkan Lynx is spreading of populations of Carpathian (autochthonous and probably reintroduced) lynx in Western and Eastern Serbia (Grubač 2000). Newest research shows that the probably reintroduced Lynx starts to show in southwestern parts of Serbia. It is possible that very soon there will be hybridization (or it already happened) between these two different populations / subspecies.

Social and economic problems also have an indirect negative effect on nature protection in general and protection of Lynx in Macedonia and Montenegro.

New data were gathered on habitat, diet and behavior of Balkan Lynx, and they mostly match the widely known data on this subspecies (Mirić 1981, Grubač 2000). Also there are new interesting and unusual data on diet that were either hardly known or unknown. They show that Balkan Lynx eats fish (*Chondrostoma sp.*) and discarded remains of a shot chamois (left by hunters as a bait).

Further research and monitoring of Balkan Lynx in area of Macedonia and Montenegro are necessary in order to gather new data with great importance for better knowing of status and biology of this highly threatened subspecies, development of action plans and taking the special protection measures.

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БРАТИСЛАВ Р. ГРУБАЧ

ПРИЛОЗИ О БАЛКАНСКОМ РИСУ *Lynx lynx martinoi* (Миріћ, 1978)  
У МАКЕДОНИЈИ И ЦРНОЈ ГОРИ

Резиме

У овим „прилозима“ дати су нови бројни подаци о стању и белешке о биологији о балканском рису *Lynx lynx martinoi* (Миріћ, 1978) на подручју Македоније и Црне Горе за период од преко две последње деценије. Подаци су углавном прикупљени током теренских и других истраживања. Коришћена је метода анкете и/или интервјуа бројних стручњака из области биологије, ловства и шумарства, ловаца и другог локалног становништва у периоду од 1980–2002. Наведени су подаци о распрострањености (локалитети и датуми налаза — посматрања, трагови и мртве јединке) и бројности, општој биологији (станиште, исхрана и понашање) и главни проблеми заштите балканског риса у Македонији и Црној Гори.

Балкански рис је у Македонији нађен на подручјима Шар планине (клисура реке Пена — око 1988, околина села Вешала и Црни врх — око 1987, Грагол код ХЕ „Вруток“ — 1978–9. и код села Горно Јеловце — 1996), Адиној реци (Леунска шума — 2000), планина Кораб (у околини карауле „Стрезимир“ — 1996), клисури Радике (испод Торбешког моста — почетком 1980-их и код Бошковог моста — 1980), подручју Маврова (околина Маврова и Маврових Анова — 1991. и 2000), планина Бистра (прикупљено је више података са више локалитета — околина села Лазарополе, Тресонче, Росоки, Главино Село, Сушица, на Козјаку, на Коритнику и Локви у периоду од 1970-их до 2000), Стогово (на 3 локалитета током 1985. и трагови 1996), околина Дебра (у околним шумама, 1985), планина Кара Орман (околина села Долган и Локва, 1985), планина Јабланица (околина села Белице 1985. и села Вевчана 1984), клисура Треске (Матка — 1993–4. и Козјак — 1998), Сува гора (локалитет Ивање — 1995), Караџица (околина села Патишка река и Пуста Брезница — 1986. и 2000), Јакупица (извор Бабуне — 1980, 1981, Солунска глава, Куртовица и Монров — 1986, Преслап — 2000), Јасенова глава (Бељак, 1995–6), Галичица (1 инд. — 1996–7), Пелистер (Широка — 2001; max. има 5–6 јед. по процени од 2002)

и Кајмакчалан (током 1986. и 1990-их). Преглед налаза/распрострањености балканског риса у Македонији дат је у прилогу (мапа 1).

На основу расположивих података, бројност балканског риса у Македонији се може проценити на око 35–40 јединки. Тренд је по процени стабилан или је у малом паду.

Балкански рис је у Црној гори нађен у планинским подручјима Проклетија (Маја Нецинат — током 1980–90, Хридско језеро и Богићевица — 1980. и 1987, околина Вусања — 1991, долине Грбаје и Каранфили — 2000–1. и 2002, Тројан — 1987. и 1997–8), Комовима (Турјак — убијен 1980), на стењу Сутеске код села Луге/Андријевце (1992), клисура Мале Ријеке (1998. и 2000), ширем подручју кањона Мораче и околним планинама (Глава — 1984, Ријечки Бротник — 1987, Платије — 1998, Пиперска река — 2000, Студеново — 2001. и Каменик — 2002), подручју Пиве (околина Плужина — 2000. и између Маглића и Волујка — 2002). Постоје индиције да се среће на подручју Виситора и планинама око Бијелог Поља. Налази балканског риса у Црној Гори наведени у овом раду су дати у прилогу (мапа 2).

Бројност риса се може проценити на око 10–12 јединки. Тренд се не може прецизно проценити, јер ово подручје није никада досада било довољно проучено. Могуће да је дошло до стабилизације бројности, мада се врста и даље налази у критичном минимуму.

Балкански рис се у Македонији и Црној Гори углавном среће у дивљим планинским областима од око 700 до преко 2000 м нв. Његова станишта су шумски или шумско-стеновити предели (од појаса храстових, буквих, мешовитих, четинарских, све до горње шумске границе).

У овим „прилозима“ дати су подаци и о исхрани балканског риса. У Македонији је посматрано како једе остатке убијених дивокоза, који су били остављени као мамац од ловаца на Козјаку (шире подручје планине Бистре) и рибу (*Chondrostoma sp.*) (у клисури Треске — језеро Матка, 1998). У Црној Гори је забележено да рис једе срне (нађени су остаци неколико јединки на подручју Ријечког Бротника) и јариће домаће козе (Мала ријека — током 1990-их). На Козјаку (планина Бистра, Македонија. — 1982) је посматрано како је рис безуспешно напао дивокозу (*Rupicapra rupicapra balcanica*) у скоку са дрвета.

Главни проблеми заштите и узроци смртности балканског риса у Македонији су убијање и хватање замкама. У периоду од око 1970. до 2002. је убијено најмање 8 јединки, док су 2 риса била ухваћена на замке. Такође, један рис је нађен повређен у саобраћају, једну младу јединку су расстргли пси и један је нађен мртав без познатог узрока смрти. Могући су негативни утицаји деградације станишта (уништавање шума и других станишта) на риса на неким локалитетима изван заштићених подручја. Постојећи етнички конфликти (током 2000–2002) на подручју западне и северозападне Македоније и општа социјална и економска ситуација онемогућава спровођење мера заштите и мониторинга ове високоугрожене подврсте.

Главни проблеми заштите балканског риса у Црној Гори су убијање и могуће хватање замкама. Најмање 6 риса је убијено и вероватно 1 је ухваћен у периоду од 1974–2002. Такође, један од уочљивих проблема је редукција главних извора исхране (дивокоза, срна, зечева и др. врста) због претераног лова ових врста од стране ловаца.

Велики потенцијални проблем заштите балканског риса је или може бити ширење карпатског риса у Источној и Југозападној Србији. Могуће је да је већ дошло или ће ускоро доћи до спајања ареала и хибридизације ове две подврсте на подручјима Рашке, Косова и Метохије, и Црне Горе.

У циљу очувања балканског риса *Lynx lynx martinoi*, који спада у једну од највише угрожених подврста у свету, неопходно је да се ургентно предузму интензивнија истраживања, мониторинг и конкретне мере заштите на подручју Македоније и Црне Горе и свим другим областима где ова подврста живи.

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