

Institute of Vertebrate Biology CAS, v. v. i.

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Overview

The institute is engaged in research of wild vertebrates, especially at the level of populations and communities, the nature of the species and the nature of hybrid zones, breeding strategies, population dynamics, mechanisms of evolutionary adaptation, foraging strategies, analysis of trends and changes in communities in natural and disturbed environment, including also modeling and forecasts. It conducts research on warm-blooded vertebrates and their parasites as hosts, vectors and reservoirs of human and animal infections in natural foci. It also focuses on biodiversity of vertebrates at the genetic, species and ecosystem levels, development of methods of protection including proposals for the protection of species and restoration of degraded habitats and ecosystems.

Organizational structure

Research is conducted by research teams who focus their work on four basic directions. Most researchers are investigators in national and international projects, within which they conduct basic and applied research.

Field offices:

Field office Studenec 122 675 02 Koněšín

Field office Valtice, Klášterní 2, 691 42 Valtice



Research programs and projects

1) Evolutionary ecology

Research in evolutionary ecology involves the study of evolutionary mechanisms that apply in intra- and inter-species relations among vertebrates (especially fish, amphibians and birds).

2) Biodiversity

The current era is considered a „biodiversity crisis.“ In the institute, all three basic levels of biodiversity (ecosystem, species and genetic) are studied, including factors that affect and form biodiversity at different levels.

3) Applied ecology

Vertebrates are an important component of the ecosystem and are also crucially important for humans. Applied ecological research focuses on the interaction between man and vertebrates, for example in agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The results of the research are directed to fisheries, conservation of freshwater ecosystems, revitalization of water streams, management of forest environments, game management, protection against rodents, and to conservation.

4) Medical and veterinary zoology

At a time of global change, research on the ecology of zoonotic microbial pathogens causing human and animal infections, including (re)emergent infections is increasing in importance. The role of wild endothermic vertebrates (hosts and reservoirs of zoonotic agents) and blood-sucking arthropods is studied at the institute in particular.

International cooperation

The institute publishes *Folia Zoologica* (an international journal), organizes and co-organizes national and international conferences, takes part in many projects including the 7th Framework Programme of the EU. It cooperates with scientific institutions in Europe and overseas.

Cooperation with universities

Researchers of the institute lecture at the Charles University in Prague, the Masaryk University and the Mendel University in Brno, the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen and the Palacky University in Olomouc. They advise over 100 graduate and PhD students from eight universities in the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Public services

The institute pays great attention to popularization - publishing articles and books and lectures for the general public, as well as *Open Days*. The institute owns an extensive collection of vertebrate skeletal material (over 100,000 items), serving domestic and foreign scientists, and it also has a unique library of scientific literature consisting of thousands of items of journals and books.

