

INSTITUTE OF VERTEBRATE BIOLOGY OF THE ASCR, v. v. i.

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The Institute was established on 1 July 1998 after separation from the Institute of Landscape Ecology, ASCR, Brno. Pursuant to Act No. 341/2005 Coll., the Institute became a public research institution as of 1 January 2007.

The Institute's activities are concentrated on basic research on vertebrates, in particular at species population and community levels, studies of population dynamics, analyses of changes and tendencies in the composition of communities in the natural and disturbed environment including simulation and prediction. Physiological, ecological and evolutionary mechanisms forming the life styles of vertebrates during ontogeny, their reproduction patterns, survival, feeding behaviour, and intra- and interspecies relations are investigated. Endotherm vertebrates and their ectoparasites are studied as hosts, vectors and reservoirs of human and animal infections in natural foci.

The biodiversity of vertebrates is studied at the genetic, species and ecosystem levels. Methods of its conservation are worked out, including proposals for the protection of species, management, and restoration of degraded biotopes and ecosystems.

Joint Research Centre

Laboratory of Evolutionary Genetics of Animals, founded by the Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, Charles University in Prague, Institute of Animal Physiology and Genetics ASCR in Liběchov and Institute of Vertebrate Biology ASCR in Brno.

The Institute publishes the international journal *Folia Zoologica* founded in 1938. The journal includes irregularly published *Folia Zoologica Monographs* (formerly *Acta scientiarum naturalium Academiae scientiarum Bohemicae*, Brno) and *Folia Zoologica Supplements*.

More detailed information about the organisational structure of the Institute and its research and specialised units can be found at the following URL:

<http://www.ivb.cz/>