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THE ANNOTATED LIST OF MAMMALS OF GEORGIA

The scientific study of mammals on the Caucasus has 230-years history. It began in 1771-1772 from research ofl.A. Giildenstadt [23]. He was the first who investigated the mammals' fauna ofGeorgia, as the scientist, and has given its description. Existed at the end ofXVIII Century level ofthe knowledge about mammals species, occurring in Georgia, one can found in the book ofIoane Bagrationi "The explanatory Dictionary of Natural History" (1814) [7]. The briefdescription ofanimals that were known to the author is given in this book.

The first generalisation of the accumulated knowledge was carried out in the beginning XX of century. The long-term activity of the Caucasian Museum and Caucasian Department ofImperial Russian Geographical Society has enabled K.A. Satunin (1915) [56] and N.J. Dinnik(1914) [14] to prepare the exhaustive monographs about mammals of the Caucasus. In these books are described a composition ofthe mammals fauna ofCaucasus as a whole, as well as biology and spatial distribution of all species. K.A. Satunin has established the first zoogeographical division ofCaucasus. This division, in main features, is accepted today as well. Unfortunately, these monographs were published not completely, and that part, which was issued, became the rarity to our time and is almost unknown to the experts. Revolution and decease ofthese scientists have slightly suspended the research on mammals in Georgia.

Since 1938, the study of Georgian mammals was fulfilled under leadership ofM.V. Shidlovsky at the Institute ofZoology, Georgian Academy ofSciences. At State University worked Prof. A.G. Janashvili. A volume ofthis article does not allow us to enumerate all scientists who have made the contribution to the investigation ofthe mammals' fauna in Georgia and on the Caucasus. Their works have allowed fulfilling the next generalisation of the accumulated knowledge at the end of fiftieth and in the beginning of the sixtieth years. In 1959, N.K. Vereshchagin has published the "Mammals ofCaucasus" - the last monograph devoted to the mammals' fauna ofall Caucasus as a whole [79]. In 1953, A.F. **Papava** has published "The Key ofMammals ofGeorgia" with **maps** of geographic ranges of mammals [48]. The book was reprinted in 1960. Simultaneously, A.G. Janashvili has published "The Key ofMammals ofGeorgia" (1953) [28] and the monograph "Animal World ofGeorgia", in 1963 [29]. "The key-handbook ofRodents ofthe Transcaucasia" ofM.V. Shidlovsky was issued in 1962 and reprinted in 1976 [68]. These works completely represent the knowledge about the taxonomy ofmammals that was obtained on the basis ofthe "classical" methods - description ofspecies' morphological differences.

With appearance ofnew methods in the systematics (karyological, genetical, biochemical etc.) the amount of special articles dedicated to the taxonomy ofdifferent groups ofmammals ofthe Caucasus and Georgia began to increase fast. These works are published in Georgian or in Russian, in various periodical editions. Sometimes, these issues are not available enough. Some monographs representing concepts of systematics and general views on spatial distribution of mammals [12,13,20,22,42,49], were issued during the last decades of Century. Again appeared the necessity to bring data about the systematics ofmammals' ofthe Caucasus into accord with contemporary notions. That was attempted by V.E. Sokolov and A.K. Tembotov in a series of publications "The Vertebrate Animals ofthe Caucasus, Mammals" in 1989. Unfortunately, till now was printed only the first book

devoted to insectivore mammals and zoogeographical division of the Caucasus. Whether this series will be continued after the decease of V.E. Sokolov and disintegration of the USSR is not clear.

In the last decade, the Caucasian region as a whole becoming accessible for European experts attracts the increasing interest. Absolutely recently was published three-volume edition "The Animal World of Azerbaijan" edited by D.V. Gajiev and I.K. Rakhmatulina [18]. B. Kristufek and V. Vohralik began publication of a series "Mammals of Turkey and Cyprus". The "Checklist of Turkey mammals" is established in this book.

So, emerged necessity to publish the list of mammals of Georgia. It is necessary not only because the viewpoints on the taxonomy of such important in the economic and ecological attitude genera as *Mus*, *Apodemus* and *Microtus* have changed, but also because borders of Georgia have a little changed for last 100-150 years. Distribution of many species on territory of Georgia considerably changed. These changes, first of all, are caused by anthropogenic changes in landscapes, by a direct extermination of one and acclimatization of others species.

According to the existing data, 109 species of mammals are occurring now in Georgia. These species are associated in 62 genera of 26 families that belong to the 7 orders. From this amount 4 of species - *Monachus monachus*, *Hyaena hyaena*, *Pantera pardus*, *Gazella subguturosa*, probably, do not meet any more in wild nature of Georgia. Seven species were acclimatized in Georgia or have penetrated here after acclimatization on adjacent territories. These species are *Sciurus vulgaris*, *Hystrix indica*, *Myocastor coypus*, *Ondatra zibethicus*, *Nyctereutes procyonoides*, *Procyon lotor*, *Mustela vison*, *Cervus nippon*. Probably, not all of these species successfully were acclimatized, but up today we have not publications, which are proving that any of these has disappeared forever.

Besides, there are 5 species, which are recorded near to borders of Georgia, or even are seen on the Georgian territory, but the publications about capturing them in Georgia, or the museum's voucher are unknown to us. We have put such species in the list, without the numbers indication. All others species in our list have numbers. The sketches about them are labelled with an asterisk (*) and are typed by the smaller font. These are bats - *Rhinolophus blasii*, *Tadarida teniotis*, *Barbastella leucomelas*, *Eptesicus bottae* and rodent - *Allactaga williamsi*. We have decided that it is necessary to list these species, as we participated in the finding of two species of bats in the spring of 2000 (*Myotis daubentoni* and *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), both new to Georgia. It is noticeable that the spines and traces of live of a porcupine were marked more than once in the East of Georgia, but animals are not caught yet.

The structure of the text and the mammals taxonomy, generally correspond to those in the last book of Pavlinov and Rossolimo (1998) [50]. For each species are given: scientific and English names, the diploid number of chromosomes (2n) and fundamental number of chromosomal or autosomal arms (NF or NFa). The chromosome sets of the most part of species are defined for animals obtained outside the Georgian territory. The conservation status of a species is indicated according to the categories of the IUCN Red List, since the Georgian experts [10, 24] define this status. This not always is agreed with the species status stated in the "IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (1996)" [27] itself. Also, in the sketch is noted whether the species is included in the Red Data Books of Georgia and USSR (RDB), or is listed in the Georgian government regulation #433 of 17 April 1992 (marked as (1992) in the text). There are briefly described distribution of species in large regions of Georgia (Eastern, Western and Southern Georgia), is noted whether the species is endemic, its biotopical preferences and altitude distribution in mountains.

Moreover, White-toothed Shrews *Crocidura persica* [20, 29, 45], *C. suaveolens* [45, 48, 55], *C. dinniki* [20, 29], *C. lasia* [29], *C. lasiura* [48] and Jird *Meriones tamariscinus* [45] are noted in the scientific literature for Georgia. Partly, it was happened through errors in the indication on labels a place of capture or the species name and partially quite possible are consequences of the taxonomic confusion, which was arisen at the species renaming. To consideration of the status of these species a separate article should be devoted.

List of Mammal species.

Order: *Insectivora* Bowdich, 1821
Family: *Erinaceidae* Fischer, 1817
Genus *Erinaceus* Linnaeus, 1758

1. *Erinaceus concolor* Martin, 1838 - East European Hedgehog.
2n=48, NF=92 [69]. Status: LC.

Distribution: All Georgia, in South Georgia - rare. Altitudes: 0 - 2100 m.
Biotope: Occurs intrazonally in the semi-desert, steppe, shrub and woodland [69,78].

Family: Talpidae Fischer, 1817
Genus *Talpa* Linnaeus, 1758

2. *Talpa caucasica* Satunin, 1908 - Caucasian Mole.
 $2n=38$, $NF=66$ [69]. Status: DD. Endemic of the Caucasus.
Subspecies *T.e. ognevi* Stroganov, 1944. Red Data Book (RDB) of USSR [41].
Distribution: Western Georgia, in the Eastern Georgia to the East till Tbilisi [69]. Altitudes: 0 - 2500 m.
Biotope: Humid broad-leaved woods, subalpine elfin woodland and meadows, agroecosystem [69].

3. *Talpa levantis* Thomas, 1906 - Small Mole.
 $2n=34$, $NF=66$ [69]. Status: DD Endemic of the Caucasus.
Distribution: All Georgia, except Colchis Lowland [10,11,45,69,]. Altitudes: 0 - 2400 m.
Biotope: dense, humid, broad-leaved woods, subalpine meadows, occurs in the oak, oak-hornbeam and flood-plain forest and its derivative [69].

Family: Soricidae Fischer, 1817
Genus *Sorex* Linnaeus, 1758

4. *Sorex raddei* Satunin, 1895 - Radde's Shrew.
 $2n=36$, $NF=68$ [69]. Status: NT. Endemic of the Caucasus. RDB of Georgia [55] and (1992).
Distribution: Greater and Lesser Caucasus, Abkhazian sea shore. Altitudes: 0 - 2000 m. [45,69].
Biotope: Humid broad-leaved and mixed beech-coniferous forest, subalpine birch elfin woodland, and subalpine meadows [69].

5. *Sorex satunini* Ognev, 1922 - Caucasian Shrew. (*S. caucasicus* Satunin, 1913 - not valid [50,42]).
 $2n=25$ (male) and $2n=24$ (female), $NF=46$ [69]. Status: DD. Endemic of the Caucasus and Asia Minor.
Distribution: Greater and Lesser Caucasus, Javakheti-Armenian Highland, northern Asia Minor and Iran [69]. Altitudes: 300 - 2400 m. [67,69].
Biotope: subalpine meadows and alpine meadows, woods. In absence of Radde's shrew occurs in forest belt.

6. *Sorex volnuchini* Ognev, 1922 - Volnuchin's Shrew.
 $2n=40$, $NF=60$ [69]. Status: VU. A. Lac. Endemic of the Caucasus.
Distribution: Foothills and mountains of the Greater Caucasus, Javakheti-Armenian Highland [45,79] and in the northern part of Asia Minor [42]. Altitudes: 300 - 2300 m. [69].
Biotope: subalpine meadows, broad-leaved forest, mixed beech-coniferous and flood-plain forest in the river Mtkvari (Kura) valley [32].

Genus *Neomys* Kaup, 1829

7. *Neomys schelkovnikovi* Satunin, 1913 - Shelkovnikov's Water Shrew.
 $2n=52$, $NF=98$ [69]. Status: EN.A.I.ac. Endemic of the Caucasus.
Distribution: Greater and Lesser Caucasus, Javakheti-Armenian Highland. Altitudes: 0 - 2440 m.
Biotope: the banks of water bodies covered with dense grassy and shrubby vegetation (usually small spring water streams) [69].

Genus *Simcus* Ehrenberg, 1832

8. *Suncus etruscus* Savi, 1822 - Dwarf (Pigmy White-Toothed) Shrew.
 $2n=42$, $NF=72$ [69]. Status: NE. RDB of Georgia [55] and (1992).
Distribution: The Mediterranean and South Asia. In Georgia, there are no records from the 40-s. Probably, this species occurs on the left-hand bank of the Iori River nearby to its outlet in the Minghechauri Reservoir on the Kura River. Altitudes: On the Caucasus - up to 500 m [10, 11].
Biotope: semi-desert [10,11].

Genus *Crocidura* Wagler, 1832

9. *Crocidura gueldenstaedti* Pallas, 1811 - Caucasian White-Toothed Shrew.

2n=40, NF=56 [69]. Status: LC.

Distribution: Foothills and the intermontane plains, Javakheti-Armenian Highland [63,69]. Altitudes: 0 - 900 m. in Western Georgia and up to 2200 m. [67] in Eastern Georgia.

Biotope: Steppe, shrub, and boundaries offorest [9,69].

10. *Crocidura leucodon* Hermann, 1780 - Bicoloured White-toothed Shrew.

2n=28, NF=56 [69]. Status: EN.A.l.abc. Rare species.

Distribution: Foothills and the intermontane plains, Black Sea Cost, Javakheti-Armenian Highland [45,69, 79]. Altitudes: 0 -1000 in Western Georgia, and up to 2100-2200 m. in the Lesser Caucasus [69].

Biotope: Humid subtropical landscapes of the Colchis Lowland, flood-plain forest of the Mtkvari (Kura) River valley [9, 32], steppe, and meadows turned into steppe in the Kartli and Javakheti-Armenian Highland.

Order: *Chiroptera* Blumenbach, 1779

Family: *Rhinolophidae* Gray, 1825

Genus *Rhinolophus* Lacepede, 1799

11. *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* Schreber, 1774 - Greater Horseshoe Bat.

2n=58, NFa=6Q [46]. Status: NT.

Distribution: All Georgia. Altitudes: 0-2200 m [28].

Biotope: The eurytopic species, seldom occurs on the plains; roosts in the caves, churches, ruins and attics [28,52].

12. *Rhinolophus hipposideros* Bechstein, 1800 - Lesser Horseshoe Bat.

2n=56, NFa=60 [46]. Status: NT. Distribution: All Georgia. Altitudes: 0-1200 m [42].

Biotope: The eurytopic species; occupies the caves, churches, ruins and attics [28,52].

13. *Rhinolophus euryale* Blasius, 1853 - Mediterranean Horseshoe Bat.

2n=58, NFa=60 [46]. Status: DD. RDB of Georgia [55] and (1992).

Distribution: Western Georgia, in Eastern Georgia two records: from Mtskheta and Tsalka towns [47, 82]. Altitudes: 0-400 m.

Biotope: The eurytopic species absents in semi-desert; roosts in the caves [52].

14. *Rhinolophus mehelyi* Matschie, 1901 - Mehely's Horseshoe Bat.

2n=58, NFa=64 [46]. Status: DD. RDB of Georgia [55] and (1992).

Distribution: Recorded in Mtskheta town in Eastern Georgia and in the Buknari village (Kobuleti district), on Black Sea Coast. Altitudes: 0-500 m. [28,45]

Biotope: Open landscapes, seldom inhabits semi-desert and woodland; roosts in the caves [52].

* *Rhinolophus blasii* Peters, 1866 - Blasius' Horseshoe Bat.

2n=58, NFa=60 [46]. Status: NE.

Distribution: This species recorded on the borders with Turkey [42] and Russia (nearby the Sochi town) [75]. Possibly, it intrudes in the Ajaria and Abkhazia. Altitudes: 0-1800 m.

Biotope: Woodland, roosts in the caves [57].

* Family: *Mollossidae* Gervais, 1856.

Genus *Tadarida* Rafinesque, 1814.

* *Tadarida teniotis* Rafinesque, 1814 - European Free-tailed Bat.

Status: NE. Red Data Book of USSR [40].

Distribution: Known from Armenia, from the administrative districts not far from the borders with Georgia. Altitudes: 250-2000 m. [52].

Biotope: Mountain steppe and woodland [52]; roosts in the caves [25,57].

Family: Vespertilionidae Gray, 1821
Genus *Myotis* Kaup, 1829

Subgenus *Myotis* s. str.

15. *Myotis (M.) blythii* Thomsen, 1857 - Lesser Mouse-Eared Bat.

2n=44, N Fa=52 [46]. Status: NT.

Distribution: All Georgia. Altitudes: 0-2000 m. [53].

Biotope: Various landscapes, in the main - mountain steppe; occupies the caves, churches, ruins and attics [28,52].

Subgenus *Paramyotis* Bianchi, 1916.

16. *Myotis (Paramyotis) bechsteini* Kuhl, 1817 - Bechstein's Bat.

2n=44, N Fa=52 [46]. Status: DD. RDB of Georgia [55] and (1992).

Distribution: Western Georgia (Zugdidi). Altitudes: 0-500 m. [28,47].

Biotope; woodland and parks; occupies the hollows, caves, cellars and ruins [28].

Subgenus *Isotus* Kolenati, 1856.

17. *Myotis (Isotus) nattereri* Kuhl, 1817 - Natterer's Bat.

2n=44, N Fa=50 [46]. Status: DD.

Distribution: Eastern and Western Georgia. Altitudes: 0-2000 m. [53].

Biotope: Woodland and mountain steppes; occupies the hollows, attics, cellars and cracks [28,52].

18. *Myotis (Isotus) emarginatus* E. Geoffroy, 1806 - Geoffrey's Bat.

2n=44, N Fa=50 [46]. Status: DD. RDB of Georgia [55] and (1992).

Distribution: Western and Southern Georgia [45, 47, 82], recorded from the Borjomi gorge and Mtskheta town. Altitudes: 300-1000m. [28].

Biotope: Lowland and low-mountains woodland [45,82]; occupies caves, cracks and an inhabited buildings [28,52].

Subgenus *Selysius*

19. *Myotis (Selysius) brandtii* Eversmann, 1845 - Brandt's Bat.

2n=44, N Fa=50 [46]. Status: NE.

Distribution: Recorded from Bakuriani. Altitudes: 1800 m. [71].

Biotope: The middle mountain woodland and different anthropogenic landscapes [71].

20. *Myotis (Selysius) mystacinus* Kuhl, 1817 - Whiskered Bat.

2n=44, N Fa=50 [46]. Status: DD.

Distribution: All Georgia. Altitudes: 0-2100 m. [28].

Biotope: Various open landscapes, mainly - middle mountains and subalpine meadows.[45, 52]; roosts in houses, churches, caves, hollows, under cortex and in the holes on the precipices [28].

Subgenus *Leuconoe* Boie, 1830.

21. *Myotis (Leuconoe) daubenionii* Kuhl, 1817 - Daubenton's (Water) bat.

22n=44, N Fa=50 [46]. Status: NE.

Distribution: Found in Eastern Georgia, in Korugi sanctuary, in 2000 (authors data), suspected for Abkhazia.

Biotope: Various open landscapes, inhabit near the water; hollows and attics [17].

Genus *Plecotus* E. Geoffrey, 1818

22. *Plecotus auritus* Linnaeus, 1758 - Brown Long-eared Bat.

2n=32, NFa=50 [46]. Status: DD.

Distribution: All Georgia [28,51,72,82]. Altitudes: 0-2000 m. [28,52,72]

Biotope: Woodland and different anthropogenic landscapes in the forest belt [51]; roosts in the hollows, caves and buildings.

23. *Plecotus austriacus* Fischer, 1829 - Grey Long-eared Bat.

2n=32, NFa=50 [46]. Status: DD.

Distribution: All Georgia, mainly in the Southern Georgia [45,72]. Altitudes: 250-2600 m. [28,72]

Biotope: The arid landscapes (mountain steppe and subalpine meadows) and settlements; roosts in the buildings, ruins, caves and wells [73].

Genus *Barbastella* Gray, 1821

24. *Barbastella barbastellus* Schreber, 1774 - Western Barbastelle.

2n=32, NFa=50 [46]. Status: DD. RDB of Georgia [55] and (1992).

Distribution: Recorded in Tbilisi, Borjomi gorge, Tsalka and Sairme [28,82]. Altitudes: 350-1500 m. [55].

Biotope: Foothills and middle mountains, occurs in the lowland woodland and flood-plain tugai-forest; occupy caves, cellars, rarely tree holes [28].

* *Barbastella leucomelas* Cretzschmar, 1826 - Asian Barbastelle.

2n=32, NFa=50 [46] Status: NE

Distribution: Recorded in the Azerbaijan on the border with Georgia [52]. Possibly, inhabits in the East of Georgia. Altitudes: 250-2000 m. [53]. Biotope: Semi-desert, steppe, and other arid landscapes, roosts in the caves [52, 53].

Genus *Pipistrellus* Kaup, 1829

25. *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* Schreber, 1774 - Common Pipistrelle, Common Bat.

2n=44 NFa=48 [46]. Status: LC.

Distribution: All Georgia [5,28,45,51,82]. Altitudes: 0-2000 m. [28].

Biotope: Woodland and different anthropogenic landscapes [28]; roosts in the attics, rains, caves, sometimes in the hollows [28,52].

26. *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* Leach, 1825 - Pygmy Pipistrelle

Status: DD.

Distribution: Found in Eastern Georgia, in 2000. Known altitudes in Georgia: 250-800m (authors data).

Biotope: Woodland and different anthropogenic landscapes; roosts in the attics, ruins, caves, sometimes in the hollows.

27. *Pipistrellus nathusii* Keyserling et Blasius, 1839 - Nathusius' Pipistrelle.

2n=44, NFa=50 [15,46]. Status: DD.

Distribution: Western and Eastern Georgia [28,82]. Altitudes: 0-1000 m. [28].

Biotope: Woodland and parks [28], semi-desert [52]; roosts in hollows and buildings (mainly in attics) [28].

28. *Pipistrellus kuhlii* Kuhl, 1817 - Kuhl's Pipistrelle, Flitter-Mouse.

2n=44, NFa=50 [15,46]. Status: LC.

Distribution: All Georgia. Altitudes: 0-3000 m. [28,45,52].

Biotope: Anthropogenic landscape, semi-deserts, mountain steppes, subalpine and alpine meadows [52]; occupies buildings and caves.

Genus *Hypsugo* Kolenati, 1856

29. *Hypsugo savii* Bonaparte, 1837 - Savi's Pipistrelle.

2n=44, NFa=50 [46] Status: DD.

Distribution: Western and Eastern Georgia [28,82]. Altitudes: 0-900 m. [28].

Biotope: Various landscapes, favoring semi-steppe and mountain steppe [52]; occupies inhabited buildings, cracks and caves [28, 52].

Genus *Nyctalus* Bowdich, 1825

30. *Nyctalus lasiopterus* Schreber, 1780 - Greater (Giant) Noctule Bat.

2n=42, NFa=50 [46]. Status: NE. RDB of Georgia [55] and (1992).

Distribution: Western Georgia and Borjomi gorge [20,43,76,82]. Altitudes: 0-2000 m. [28].

Biotope: Woodland and different anthropogenic landscapes [55]; roosts in hollows [28,55].

31. *Nyctalus noctula* Schreber, 1774 - Noctule Bat (Common Noctule).

2n=42, NFa=52 [15]. Status: DD. The migrating species.

Distribution: Western and Eastern Georgia [28,82]. Altitudes: 0-2000 m. [28].

Biotope: Woodland and different anthropogenic landscapes, favoring lowland woodland [28,52]; occupies hollows, sometimes attics [28].

32. *Nyctalus leisleri* Kuhl, 1817 - Lesser Noctule (Leisler's) Bat.

2n=46, NFa=50 [46]. Status: DD. RDB of Georgia [55] and (1992).

Distribution: Western and Eastern Georgia [28,45,82]. Altitudes: 0-800 m. [28].

Biotope: Woodland and different anthropogenic landscapes [28]; occupies hollows, rarely buildings [28].

Genus *Eptesicus* Rafinesque, 1820

Subgenus *Amblyotus* Kolenati, 1858.

33. *Eptesicus (Amblyotus) nilssonii* Keyserling et Blasius, 1839 - Northern Bat.

2n=50 NFa=48 [46]. Status: NE.

Distribution: Recorded in the northern part of Western Georgia [82] and from Tbilisi [28]. Altitudes: 400-600m.

Biotope: Woodland, anthropogenic landscape; roosts in hollows and inhabited buildings.

Subgenus *Eptesicus* s. str.

34. *Eptesicus (E.) serotinus* Schreber, 1774 - Serotine, House Bat.

2n=50, NFa=48 [46]. Status: DD.

Distribution: All Georgia [5,28,45,52,82]. Altitudes: 0-2100 m, [45].

Biotope: Mountain, lowland and tugai-forest; semi-steppe and mountain steppe [52]; roosts in inhabited buildings and hollows [28].

* *Eptesicus (E.) bottae* Peters, 1869 - Botta's Serotine.

2n=50, NFa=48 [83]. Status: NE.

Distribution: In the Azerbaijan on the border with Georgia. Possibly, in the semi-desert of East Georgia [52]. Altitudes: 250-1000 m. [52].

Biotope: Semi-deserts, steppe, and mountain steppe [52].

Genus *Vespertilio* Linnaeus, 1758

35. *Vespertilio murinus* Linnaeus, 1758 - Parti-coloured (Frosted) Bat.

2n=38, NFa=50 [46]. Status: DD. The migrating species.

Distribution: Northern part of Western Georgia, recorded also from Borjomi gorge, Mameuli town and Tbilisi [28,82]. Altitudes: 0-1500 m.

Biotope: In Georgia it is a woodland species, in Kazakhstan occurs also in the semi-deserts [52]; roosts in attics, in the cracks of inhabited houses and in the hollow of trees [28].

Genus *Miniopterus* Bonaparte, 1837

36. *Miniopterus schreibersii* Kuhl, 1817 - Long-Winged (Schreiber's) Bat.
2n=46, NFa=50 [46]. Status: DD. The migrating species. RDB of Georgia [55] and (1992).
Distribution: Western and Eastern Georgia [28]. Altitudes: 0-2000 m.

Biotope: The mountain woodland and mountain xeric shrub vegetation. Occurs also in the woodland on plains; roosts in caves, in ruins [28, 52] and in churches [47, 51].

Order: *Lagomorpha* Brandt, 1855

Family: *Leporidae* Fischer, 1817

Genus *Lepus* Linnaeus, 1758

37. *Lepus europaeus* Pallas, 1778 - European (Brown) Hare.
2n=48, NFa=88 [46]. Status: LC.

Distribution: All Georgia. Altitudes: 0 - 2500 m [36,38,39].

Biotope: steppe, bushes, forest edge, subalpine meadows and anthropogenic landscape [68].

Order: *Rodentia* Bowdich, 1821

Family: *Sciuridae* Fischer, 1817

Genus *Sciurus* Linnaeus, 1758

Subgenus *Tenes* Thomas, 1909.

38. *Sciurus (Tenes) anomalus* Gmelin, 1778 [50]- Persian (Caucasian) Squirrel.
2n=40, NFa=80 [46]. Status: VU A. 1.e.

Distribution: All Georgia [20,68]. Altitudes: 200-2000 m. Biotope: Leaf-bearing forest [68].

Subgenus *Sciurus* s. str.

39. *Sciurus (S.J) vulgaris* Linnaeus, 1758 - Red Squirrel.
2n=40, NFa=74 [46]. Status: LC. The introduced species.

Distribution: Eastern and Western Georgia. Altitudes: 300-2000 m, [16].

Biotope: Coniferous and mixed forest. Sometimes occurs in the broad-leaved forests. It is found also in the coniferous plantations in the cities.

Family: *Hystriidae* Fischer, 1817

Genus *Hystrix* Linnaeus, 1758

40. *Hystrix indica* Kerr, 1792 - Indian crested porcupine

2n=60 [22]. Status: NE.

Distribution: Extreme East of Georgia. Altitudes: 250-500 m. Biotope: Steppes, at the rocky slopes of river valleys [22].

Family: *Myocastoridae* Ameghino, 1904

Genus *Myocastor* Kerr, 1792

41. *Myocastor coypus* Molina, 1782. - Nutria, Coypu.

2n=42, NFa=80 [46]. Status: VU D.2. The introduced species.

Distribution: Western Georgia (western edge of the Colchis lowland) and Eastern Georgia (tugai-forest on the eastern edge of the River Kura valley). Altitudes: 0 - 400 m. [10, 11]

Biotope: The banks of water-bodies and rivers, with vascular aquatic, semi-aquatic and waterside vegetation [68].

Family: Myoxidae Gray, 1821
Genus *Myoxus* Zimmermann, 1780

42. *Myoxus glis* Linnaeus, 1766 - Fat (Edible) Dormouse, Loir.
2n=62, Nfa=120 [46]. Status: LC.
Distribution: All Georgia, except Colchis Lowland [64]. Altitudes: 0-2000 m. [50,60,74].
Biotope: Leaf-bearing and mixed forests, orchards, occupies attics [68].

Genus *Dryomys* Thomas, 1906

43. *Dryomys nitedula* Pallas, 1778 - Forest Dormouse.
2n=48, Nfa=92 [46]. Status: LC.
Distribution: All Georgia, except regions in the alpine belt and semi-desert zone [66,68]. Altitudes: 200-2000 [66, 74]. Biotope: Woodland with underbrush, edges of forest and shrub [1,66].

Family: Sminthidae Brandt, 1855
Genus *Sicista* Gray, 1827

44. *Sicista caucasica* Vinogradov, 1925 - Caucasian Birch Mouse.
2n=32, Nfa=46 [8, 58]. Status: VU. D.2. Endemic of the Caucasus.
Distribution: Western edge of the Western Greater Caucasus (Abkhazia) Mountains [58].
Altitudes: 1400-2700 m [58].
Biotope: Subalpine elfin woodland, subalpine and alpine meadows [58,68].

45. *Sicista kluchorica* Sokolov, Kovalskaya et Baskevich, 1980 - Klukhorian Birch Mouse.
2n = 24, Nfa = 42 [8, 58]. Status: VU. D.2. Endemic of the Caucasus.
Distribution: Southern slope of the Western and Central Greater Caucasus (Svaneti) [58].
Altitudes: 1550-2600 m. [58].
Biotope: Subalpine elfin woodland, subalpine and alpine meadows [58].

46. *Sicista kazbegica* Sokolov, Kovalskaya et Baskevich, 1986 - Kazbegian Birch Mouse.
2n=40,42, Nfa=48, 50 [8, 58]. Status: VU. D.2. Endemic of the Caucasus. -
Distribution: Northern slope of the Central Greater Caucasus [58]. Altitudes: 1600-2200 m. [58].
Biotope: Subalpine elfin woodland, subalpine and alpine meadows [58].

Family: Allactagidae Vinogradov, 1925
Genus *Allactaga* F. Cuvier, 1837

Subgenus *Allactaga* s. str.

47. *Allactaga* (*A.*) *elater* Lichtenstein, 1825 - Little Jerboa.
2n=48, Nfa=92 [46]. Status: NE [11].
Distribution: The extreme southeastern edge of the Eastern Georgia. Altitudes: 250-350 m. [28,30,58]
Biotope: The glasswort semi-desert at the foothills with stony and loam soils [58,68].

* Subgenus *Paralactaga* Young, 1927.

Allactaga (*Paralactaga*) *williamsi* Thomas, 1897 - Williams' Jerboa.
2n=48, Nfa=92 [46, 58]. Status: NE. Very rare species
Distribution: The extreme southeastern edge of the Eastern Georgia. Altitudes: 250-450 m. [28] .
Biotope: Mountain and plain; glasswort, flaebane, forbs semidesert and steppe; [58,68]

Family: Spalacidae Gray, 1821
Genus *Nannospalax* Palmer, 1903

48. *Nannospalax nehringi* Satunin, 1898 - Nehring's Mole Rat.
2n = 50, NFa = 66, 68 [46]. Status: EN B.1.2.C. Endemic of the Caucasus and Asia Minor.
Distribution: The Southern Georgia. Altitudes: 700-2400 m. [11,45].
Biotope: Mountain feather-grass and bluestem steppes, subalpine meadows.

Family: Cricetidae Fischer, 1817
Genus *Cricetulus* Milne-Edwards, 1867

49. *Cricetulus migratorius* Pallas, 1773 - Grey Hamster.
2n=22, NFa=34 [46]. Status: VU A.2.a.
Distribution: Eastern and Southern Georgia [10,11,68]. Altitudes: 300-4000 m. [20].
Biotope: Steppes, at the rock exposures and taluses, subalpine and alpine meadows, occurs around grain fields [68].

Genus *Mesocricetus* Nehring, 1898

-ii-

50. *Mesocricetus brandti* Nehring, 1898 - Brandt's Hamster, Turkish Hamster.
2n=42, NF = 76, 78, 80 [46]. Status: EN A. 1 ,ac. Endemic of the Caucasus and Asia Minor. RDB of Georgia [55] and (1992).

Distribution: Eastern and Southern Georgia [10,11,68]. Altitudes: 250-3000 m.
Biotope: Cereal-wormwood and cereal-forbs steppes, foothills and mountains [68].

51. *Mesocricetus raddei nigriculus* Nehring, 1894 - Blackish (Radde's) Hamster.
2n=42, NF=72 [46]. Status: VU B.1.2.C. Endemic of the Northern Caucasus.
Distribution: Northern edge of Eastern Georgia, region Pirikita Khevsureti on the northern slope of the Greater Caucasus Range [10,11]. Altitudes: 1100-2400 m, [10,11].
Biotope: Feather-grass, fescue-feather-grass and wormwood-cereal mountain steppes [10, 11].

Genus *Prometheomys* Satunin, 1901

52. *Prometheomys schaposchnikovi* Satunin, 1901 - Long-Clawed Mole-Vole.
2n=56, NF-56,70 [46]. Status: VU B.1.2.C. Endemic of the Caucasus.
Distribution: The Mountains of Abkhazia, the Central Caucasus and the Meskheta range [11,68]. Altitudes: 1500 to 2600 m. [74].
Biotope: Subalpine, partly alpine meadows with tall herbage [68], occasionally descending below upper edge of the forest along secondary meadows of a great extension [11, 67, 81].

Genus *Clethrionomys* Tilesius, 1850

53. *Clethrionomys glareolus ponticus* Thomas, 1906 - Pontian Bank Vole.
2n = 56, NFa = 56 [46]. Status: VU D.2. This subspecies is endemic of the Asia Minor.
Distribution: The Meskheta range [11,68]. Altitudes: 1800-2000 m.
Biotope: Found in the humid dark coniferous forest in the mountains [11,68].

Genus *Ondatra* Link, 1795

54. *Ondatra zibethicus* Linnaeus, 1766 - Muskrat.
2n=54, NFa=54 [46]. Status: NE. The introduced species.
Distribution: The Southern Georgia. Altitudes: 1900-2000 m. [10,11].
Biotope: The banks of water-bodies and rivers, with vascular aquatic, semi-aquatic and waterside vegetation [68].

Genus *Arvicola* Lacepede, 1799

55. *Arvicola terrestris* Linnaeus, 1758. - Water Vole.
2n=36, NFa-62,68 [46]. Status: DD.

Distribution: Southern and Eastern Georgia, in Western Georgia recorded from confluence of the Kvirila and Rioni rivers [68]. Altitudes: 0-2500 m. [74].

Biotope: The banks of slow-flowing and stagnant water-bodies covered with thick grass or low shrub vegetation [68].

Genus *Chionomys* Miller, 1908

56. *Chionomys nivalis* Martins, 1842 - Snow Vole.

2n=56, NFa=56 [46]. Status: DD.

Distribution: Southern Georgia (the central part of Lesser Caucasus) [68] and Western Georgia (the Western part of the Greater Caucasus - Abkhazia [10, 11]). Altitudes: 1500-2500 m.

Biotope: Stony biotopes - taluses, rock exposures in the subalpine meadows. Occurs in the alpine landscape and glades at the upper boundary of the forest-belt in the mountains [68].

57. *Chionomys gud* Satunin, 1909 - Gudauri Vole.

2n=54, NFa=54 [46]. Status: DD. Endemic of the Caucasus.

Distribution: The Greater Caucasus, Meskheta and Trialeti mountain ranges on the Lesser Caucasus [10, 11, 68]. Altitudes: 500-3000 m. [74].

Biotope: Rock exposure and taluses in subalpine and alpine meadows and in the forest, at places with scarce grassy and shrub vegetation [67, 68].

58. *Chionomys roberti* Thomas, 1906 - Robert's Vole.

2n=54, NF=54 [46]. Status: DD. Endemic of the Asia Minor and the Caucasus.

Distribution: Western Georgia, mountains of Eastern and Southern Georgia. Altitudes: 0-3000 m. [33, 45] Biotope: Woods, subalpine and alpine belts. The stony biotopes at rivers, at brooks and at moist places [68].

Genus *Microtus* Schrank, 1798

Subgenus *Terricola* Fatio, 1867

59. *Microtus (Terricola) majori* Thomas, 1906 - Bush Vole.

2n=54, NF=60 [46]. Status: LC.

Distribution: Western and Eastern Georgia. Altitudes: 300-2000 m. [45, 68].

Biotope: Woodland [59, 68].

60. *Microtus (Terricola) daghestanicus* Shidlovsky, 1919 - Daghestanian Vole.

2n=52, 54, NF=58 [44]. Status: LC. Endemic of the Caucasus. Distribution: The high mountain regions of Eastern Georgia [59, 68]. Altitudes: 800-3500 m. [59]

Biotope: From the upper edges of the forest up to the subnival belt [34, 61].

61. *Microtus (Terricola) nazarovi* Shidlovsky, 1938 - Nazarov's Bushes Vole.

2n=38, NF=58 [46]. Status: NE. Endemic of the Caucasus.

Distribution: Southern Georgia. Altitudes: 1800-3000 m. [10, 11].

Biotope: Xeric steppes and grain fields in the mountains [10, 11, 59].

Subgenus *Sumeriomys* Argyropulo, 1933.

62. *Microtus (Sumeriomys) socialis* Pallas, 1773 - Social Vole.

2n=60, NF=62 [46]. Status: LC.

Distribution: Eastern Georgia. Altitudes: 180-1000 m. [37].

Biotope: Wormwood-cereal steppes, semi-desert and steppe foothills. Pastures, kitchen-gardens, xeric edges of the forest and the glades in the forest on the plain [37, 68].

Subgenus *Microtus* s. str.

63. *Microtus (M.) arvalis* Pallas, 1778 - Common Vole.

2n=46, NFa=70 [46]. Status: LC.

Distribution: Eastern and Southern Georgia. Altitudes: 500-2500 m. [68].

Biotope: Steppes of foothills and mountains; subalpine meadows, sometimes edges of woods and shrubs. Occurs in the fields, in kitchen-gardens and orchards [68].

Family: Gerbillidae Gray, 1825

Genus *Meriones* Illiger, 1811

Subgenus *Plassiomys* Heptner, 1933

64. *Meriones (Plassiomys) tristrami* Thomas, 1892 - Turkish Jird.

2n=72, NFa=74, 80, 70-86 [46]. Status: EN. A.I.e.

Distribution: Sometimes intrudes into Eastern Georgia. The species recorded on the slopes of the Yagluja Mountain and at the steppe between this mountain and the settlement of Phonichala, on the right-hand bank of the river Mtkvari (Kura River) [65,68]. Altitudes: 500-650 m. [10,11].

Biotope: Broom-sedge (*Andropogon sp.*) steppe and phrygana-like bushes' formation [65, 68].

65. *Meriones (Plassiomys) libycus* Lichtenstein, 1823 - Libyan Jird.

2n=44, NFa=74 [46]. Status: DD.

Distribution: Eastern Georgia (the Iori Tableland, up to Rustavi town). Altitudes: 300-500 m. [65,77].

Biotope: The glasswort semi-desert, this species penetrates through the growth of the tamarisk to the bank of the river Mtkvari (Kura). Dry arable lands - unirrigated sowing and the medic fields (*Medicago sp.*) [21, 65, 68].

Family: Muridae Illiger, 1811

Genus *Micromys* Dehne, 1841

66. *Micromys minutus* Pallas, 1771 - Harvest Mouse.

2n=68, NFa=70-78 [46]. Status: DD.

Distribution: Sporadic occurring in Western Georgia [10,11,45,68]. Altitudes: 0-500 m.

Biotope: Mesophilic landscapes with luxuriant grassy and shrubby vegetation, boundaries of maize fields [68].

Genus *Apodemus* Kaup, 1829

Subgenus *Apodemus* s. str.

67. *Apodemus (A.) agrarius* Pallas, 1771 - Striped Field Mouse.

2n=48, NFa=54 [46]. Status: LC.

Distribution: Western Georgia (lowland and foothills in Abkhazia) [10,68]. Altitudes: 20-300 m. [10].

Biotope: Open humid landscapes, with luxuriant grassy and shrubby vegetation, arable lands [60,68].

Genus *Sylvaemus* Ognev, 1924

Subgenus *Sylvaemus* s. str.

68. *Sylvaemus (S.) uralensis* Pallas, 1811 (= *A. microps* Kratochvil et Rosicky, 1952) - Lesser Wood-Mouse.

2n=48, NFa=46 [46]. Status: LC.

Distribution: All Georgia [10]. Altitudes: 0 - 2400 m. [10].

Biotope: Shrub and underwood in the forest and forest edges, rarely in the open landscapes [80].

69. *Sylvaemus (S.) fulvipectus* Ognev, 1924 - Caucasian Wood Mouse or Yellow-breasted Field Mouse.

2n=48, NFa=46 [46]. Status: LC.

Distribution: All Georgia [10]. Altitudes: 0 - 3000 m. [10].

Biotope: Open landscapes, from semi-deserts to the alpine meadows, rarely in the woodland on the edges and on the glades [80].

70. *Sylvaemus (S.) ponticus* Sviridenko, 1936 - Caucasian Mouse.

2n=48, NFa=46 [46]. Status: LC.

Distribution: All Georgia [10]. Altitudes: 0-900 m.

Biotope: The broad-leaved forests, rarely occurs on the forest edges and shrubby thickets [80].

Subgenus *Karstomys* Martino, 1939.

71. *Sylvaemus (Karstomys) mystacinus* Danford et Alston, 1877 - Broad-Toothed Mouse.

2n=48, NFa=50 [46]. Status: DD.

Distribution: The foothills, mountains of the Western Georgia, except Abkhazia [62,68]. Altitudes: 200-2000 m. [11]. Biotope: Xeric leaf-bearing and mixed mountain wood, especially at places of rock exposures and taluses [68].

Genus *Mus* Linnaeus, 1758

72. *Mus musculus* L., 1758 - House Mouse.

2n=40, NFa=38 [40,46]. Status: LC.

Distribution: All Georgia. Altitudes: 0 - 2000 m.

Biotope: Settlements, open anthropogenic landscapes [40,68].

73. *Mus macedonicus* Petrov et Ruzic, 1983 - Steppe (Mediterranean) House Mouse.

2n=40, NFa=38 [46]. Status: LC.

Distribution: Eastern Georgia. It occurs in the Mtkvari (Kura) River Valley from Kareli district till Rustavi and, also in Kakheti province [31,35]. Altitudes: 250-820 m. [35].

Biotope: Steppe, shrub thickets, unirrigated arable land [35].

Genus *Rattus* Fischer, 1803

74. *Rattus rattus* L., 1778 - Black (Roof) Rat.

2n=40, NFa=62 [46]. Status: LC.

Distribution: All Georgia, in the wildness on the Colchis Lowland, Mtkvari (Kura) and Alazani rivers' valleys. Altitudes: 0-1500 m. [10,45,74]. Biotope: Anthropogenic landscapes, woodland and open landscapes in places with a humid climate [68].

75. *Rattus norvegicus* Berkenhout, 1769 - Norway Rat, Common (Brown) Rat.

2n=42, NFa=62 [46]. Status: LC. Invasion species.

Distribution: All Georgia (the settlements and towns). In the wildness on the Colchis Lowland and Mtkvari (Kura) and Alazani rivers flood-land. Altitudes: 0-1800 m. [10,68].

Biotope: The anthropogenic and riparian biotopes [68].

Order: *Carnivora* Bowdich, 1821

Family: *Canidae* Fischer, 1817

Genus *Nyctereutes* Temmink, 1839

76. *Nyctereutes procyonoides* Gray, 1834 - Raccoon-Like Dog.

2n=56, NFa=64 [46]. Status: LC. The introduced species.

Distribution: Western (Abkhazia) and Eastern Georgia [24,28,29]. Altitudes: 200-1800 m.

Biotope: Broad-leaved forest, bushes, steppe, nearby water [24,28,29].

Genus *Canis* Linnaeus, 1758

77. *Canis aureus* Linnaeus, 1758 - Jackal.

2n=78, NFa=76 [46]. Status: LC.

Distribution: Western and Eastern Georgia [24,28,29]. Altitudes: 0-1500 m.

Biotope: Tugai forest and Colchis swamped forest, bush, steppe, anthropogenic landscape [28,29].

78. *Canis lupus* Linnaeus, 1758 - Wolf.

2n=78, NFa=76 [46]. Status: LC.

Distribution: All Georgia [24,28,29]. Altitudes: 0-3500 m.

Biotope: Wood, bush, alpine meadows, steppe, semi-desert [24,28,29].

Genus *Vulpes* Frisch, 1775

79. *Vulpes vulpes* Linnaeus, 1758 - Red Fox.

2n=35-40, NF=64+4B [46]. Status: LC.

Distribution: All Georgia [28,29]. Altitudes: 0-2745 m. Biotope: The eurytopic species, often occurs in anthropogenic landscape and nearby at settlements and towns.

Family: Ursidae Fischer, 1817

Genus *Ursus* Linnaeus, 1758

80. *Ursus arctos* Linnaeus, 1758 - Brown Bear.

2n=74, NF=80 [46]. Status: EN.

Distribution: All Georgia [4,28,29]. Altitudes: 200-3500 m.

Biotope: All types of woodland and subalpine meadows.

Family: Procyonidae Bonaparte, 1850

Genus *Procyon* Storr, 1780

81. *Procyon lotor* Linnaeus, 1758 - Common Raccoon.

2n=38, NF=66 [46]. Status: DD. The introduced species.

Distribution: Plains of Western and Eastern Georgia [24]. Altitudes: 350-800 m. [24]

Biotope: Tugai forest and Colchis swamped forest, other riparian forest and shrubs [24].

Family: Mustelidae Fischer, 1817

Genus *Martes* Pinel, 1792

82. *Martes foina* Erxleben, 1777 - Rock Marten.

2n=38, NFa=66 [46]. Status: LC.

Distribution: All Georgia [28,29]. Altitudes: 0-4000 m. [24].

Biotope: The eurytopic species, everywhere at rock exposures and tree growth [24,28,29].

83. *Martes martes* Linnaeus, 1758 - Common Marten.

2n=38, NFa=64 [46]. Status: LC.

Distribution: Western and Eastern Georgia [24,28,29]. Altitudes: 0-2400 m. [24].

Biotope: Woodland [24,28,29].

Genus *Mustela* Linnaeus, 1758

Subgenus *Mustela* s. str.

• 84. *Mustela (M.) nivalis* Linnaeus, 1766 - Weasel.

2n=42, NFa=68 [46]. Status: LC.

Distribution: All Georgia [28,29]. Altitudes: 0-3000 m. [24].

Biotope: The eurytopic species, occurs in settlements and anthropogenic landscapes [28,29].

85. *Mustela (M.) erminae* Linnaeus, 1758 - Stoat.

2n=44, NFa=60 [46]. Status: NE.

Distribution: Northern slope of the Central Greater Caucasus (known from Kazbegi district). Altitudes: 800-3200 m [70].

Biotope: Woodland, subalpine meadows [28,29].

Subgenus *Lutreola* Wagner, 1841.

86. *Mustela (Lutreola) lutreola* Linnaeus, 1761 - European Mink.
2n=38, NFa=58 [46]. Status: NE. RDB of Georgia [55] and (1992).
Distribution: Abkhazia [24,28,29,55]. Altitudes: 1500-2000 m.
Biotope: The banks of the freshwater bodies in the woodland [24,28,29].

Subgenus *Neovison* Baryshnikov et Abramov, 1997

87. *Mustela (Neovison) vison* Schreber, 1777 - American Mink.
2n=30, NFa=54 [46]. Status: NE. The introduced species, but no records last three decades.
Distribution: Eastern Georgia (Kvareli district) [28,29]. Altitudes: 400-1000 m.
Biotope: The banks of the freshwater bodies in the woodland [28,29].

Genus *Vormela* Blasius, 1884

88. *Vormela peregusna* Gueldenstaedt, 1770 - Marbled Polecat.
2n=38, NFa=70 [46]. Status: EW. RDB of Georgia [55] and (1992).
Distribution: Southern Georgia [24,28,29,55]. Altitudes: 500-2000 m.
Biotope: Mountain steppe, turned into the steppe subalpine meadows; semi-desert (in other countries) [24,28,29,55].

Genus *Meles* Boddaert, 1785

89. *Meles meles* Linnaeus, 1758 - Badger.
2n=44, NFa=68 [46]. Status: LC.
Distribution: All Georgia [28,29]. Altitudes: 0-2700 m.
Biotope: The eurytopic species.

Family: Phocidae Gray, 1825

Genus *Monachus* Fleming, 1822

90. *Monachus monachus* Hermann, 1779 - Monk Seal.
2n=34, NFa=62 [46]. Status: EX. RDB of Georgia [55].
Distribution: The Black Sea coast of Turkey, seldom enter into the Georgian coastal waters [24].
Biotope: The seacoast at places of rock exposures [55].

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Genus *Lutra* Brunnich, 1771

91. *Lutra lutra* Linnaeus, 1758 - Common Otter.
2n=38 [46]. Status: CR. RDB of Georgia [55] and (1992).
Distribution: All Georgia [24,28,29]. Altitudes: 0-2300 m.
Biotope: The banks of the freshwater bodies in the woodland and mountains [28,29].

Family: Hyaenidae Gray, 1821

Genus *Hyaena* Brunnich, 1771

92. *Hyaena hyaena* Linnaeus, 1758 - Striped Hyena.
2n=40, NFa=68 [46]. Status: EW. RDB of Georgia [55] and (1992).
Distribution: Eastern Georgia (south-eastern edge of Iori Tableland and Iori River valley). Altitudes: 250 -750 m. [24,29,55]. Biotope: Open arid landscapes, light forest, juniper shrub [6,24,29,55].

Family: Felidae Fischer, 1817

Genus *Felis* Linnaeus, 1758

Subgenus *Chaus* Gray, 1843

93. *Felis (Chaus) chaus* Gueldenstaedt, 1776 - Jungle Cat, Chaus.

2n=38, NFa=68 [46]. Status: CR.

Distribution: East of Eastern Georgia (Lower course of the rivers Iori and Alazani, middle course of the Kura River) [24]. Altitudes: 200-970 m.

Biotope: Flood plain tugai-forest and reed-beds [24,29].

Subgenus *Felis* s. str.

94. *Felis (F.) silvestris* Schreber, 1777 - Wild Cat.

2n=38, NFa=68 [46]. Status: LC.

Distribution: All Georgia [24,29]. Altitudes: 0-2000 m.

Biotope: Woodland, anthropogenic landscape, rarely in the arid biotopes [24,26,29].

95. *Felis libyca* Forster, 1780 - Steppe Cat.

2n=38, NFa=68 [46]. Status: NE and (1992).

Distribution: The South Georgia and Bolnisi administrative district (Eastern Georgia) [2,24]. Altitudes: 700 - 1750 m.

Biotope: Steppe, semi-desert, edges of tugai-forest [26].

Genus *Lynx* Kerr, 1792

96. *Lynx lynx* Linnaeus, 1758 - Lynx.

2n=38, NFa=68 [46]. Status: CR. RDB of Georgia [55] and (1992).

Distribution: Western and Eastern Georgia (presents several isolated populations) [24]. Altitudes: 250-3000 m. [55].

Biotope: Mountain and light forest, subalpine and alpine meadows [24,26,55].

Genus *Panthera* Oken, 1816

97. *Panthera pardus* Linnaeus, 1758 - Leopard, Panther.

2n=38, NFa=68 [46]. Status: EW. RDB of Georgia [55] and (1992).

Distribution: Eastern Georgia (Slopes of the Greater Caucasus Range) [24]. Altitudes: 1400-3500 m.

Biotope: Subalpine and alpine meadows, and in the upper part of the mountain forest [24,26,55].

Order *Artiodactyla* Owen, 1848

Family: *Suidae* Gray, 1821

Genus *Sus* Linnaeus, 1758

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98. *Sus scrofa* Linnaeus, 1758 - Wild Boar.

2n=36, 37, 38 NFa=60 [54]. Status: LC.

Distribution: All Georgia [24,29]. Altitudes: 0-2600 m. [24]

Biotope: Woodland from middle mountain till lowland (riparian, light, tugai forest), rarely in the coniferous forest [24].

Family: *Cervidae* Goldfuss, 1820

Genus *Cervus* Linnaeus, 1758

99. *Cervus nippon* Temminck, 1837 - Sika Deer.

2n=66, NFa=68 [19]. Status: NE.

Distribution: Sometimes it intrudes in Western Georgia (Abkhazia and Svaneti) [29]. Altitudes: 1500-2500 m.

Biotope: Woodland, subalpine meadow [29].

100. *Cervus elaphus* Linnaeus, 1758 - Red Deer.

2n=68, NFa=68 [46]. Status: EN. RDB of Georgia [55] and (1992).

Distribution: Western and Eastern Georgia in Nature Reserves and game farms [24]. Altitudes: 250-3100 m.

Biotope: Mountain and riparian forest, rarely intrude into subalpine meadows [24,29,55].

Genus *Capreolus* Gray, 1821

101. *Capreolus carpeolus* Linnaeus, 1758 - European Roe Deer.

2n=70, NFa=68 [46]. Status: LC.

Distribution: Western and Eastern Georgia [24,29]. Altitudes: 0-2500 m.

Biotope: Woodland, rarely occurs on subalpine meadow [24,29]

Family: Bovidae Gray, 1821

Genus *Rupicapra* Blainville, 1816

102. *Rupicapra rupicapra* Linnaeus, 1758 - Chamois.

2n=58, NFa=58 [46]. Status: EN and (1992).

Distribution: Western and Eastern Georgia (presents several isolated populations) [24]. Altitudes: 450-3800 m.

Biotope: Subalpine and alpine meadows, upper part of forest belt at the rock exposures [24,29].

Genus *Capra* Linnaeus, 1758

103. *Capra aegagrus* Erxleben, 1777 - Wild Goat.

2n=60, NFa=58,60 [46]. Status: CR. RDB of Georgia [55] and (1992).

Distribution: Eastern Georgia (eastern part of the Greater Caucasus range) and, probably, mountains on the border with Turkey (Shavsheti, Arsiani ranges in Ajaria) [3]. Altitudes: 1500-3200 m [3,24].

Biotope: Alpine meadows, subalpine meadows and upper part of forest belt at the rock exposures [3,29].

104. *Capra caucasica* Gueldenstaedt et Pallas, 1783 - West Caucasian Tur.

2n=60, NFa=58 [46]. Status: EN A1d+2cde and (1992). Endemic of Caucasus.

Distribution: Western Georgia (Greater Caucasus - westwards from Shkhara mountain). Altitudes: 1800-4500 m. [29]

Biotope: Alpine and subalpine meadows [24,29].

105. *Capra cylindricornis* Blyth, 1840 - East Caucasian Tur.

2n=60, NFa=58 [46]. Status: EN A1d+2cde. Endemic of Caucasus.

Distribution: Eastern Georgia (Greater Caucasus - eastwards from Shkhara mountain). Altitudes: 1800-4000 m. [24]

Biotope: Alpine and subalpine meadows [24,29].

Genus *Gazella* Blainville, 1816

106. *Gazella subgutturosa* Gueldenstaedt, 1780-Goitred Gazelle.

2n=30, NFa=56 [46]. Status: EX. RDB of Georgia [55] and (1992).

Distribution: Sometimes intrudes in the extreme south-eastern edge of the Eastern Georgia. Altitudes: 350-450 m. [24].

Biotope: Steppes and semi-deserts [24].

Order: *Cetacea* Linnaeus, 1758

Family: Delphinidae Gray, 1821

Genus *Delphinus* Linnaeus, 1758

107. *Delphinus delphis* Linnaeus, 1758 - Common Dolphin.

2n=44, NFa=76 [46]. Status: LC.

Distribution: The Black Sea [29].

Biotope: The pelagic and coastal waters.

108. *Tursiops truncatus* Montagu, 1821 - Bottle-Nosed Dolphin.
2n=44, NFa=74 [46]. Status: DD and (1992).
Distribution: The Black Sea [29].
Biotope: The pelagic and coastal waters.

109. *Phocoena phocoena* Linnaeus, 1758 - Common Porpoise.
2n=44, NFa=76 [46]. Status: VU Ale, C1+2b.
Distribution: The Black Sea [29].
Biotope: The pelagic and coastal waters.

ა. ბუხნიკაშვილი, ა. კანდაუროვი

საქართველოს ძუძუმწოვართა (Mammalia) ანოტირებული ნუსხა

რეზიუმე

საქართველოში ბინადრობს 109 სახეობის ძუძუმწოვრი, რომელიც გაერთიანებულია 62 გვარში, 26 ოჯახსა და 7 რიგში. აქედან 4 სახეობა, დღეისთვის შესაძლოა არ არსებობს ველურ ბუნებაში, 8 აკლიმატიზებული იქნა ან შემოიჭრა ჩვენში მოსაზღვრე ტერიტორიებიდან. 5 სახეობა მოპოვებულია საქართველოს საზღვრებთან ან შემჩნეულიცკია ჩვენს ტერიტორიაზე, მაგრამ მათი მოპოვება ჯერჯერობით ვერ მოხერხდა, სამუხეუმო მასალები-კი უცნობია.

წინამდებარე ნუსხაში თითოეული სახეობისთვის მოყვანილია დასახელება (მეცნიერული და ინგლისური), მითითებულია ქრომოსომთა (2n) და ქრომოსომთა ან აუტოსომთა მხრების (NF ან NFa) რაოდენობა. ყველა სახეობისთვის ბდსკ წითელი ნუსხის (Red List IUCN) მოთხოვნათა თანახმად მითითებულია დაცვითი სტატუსი, ისე როგორცაა განსაზღვრული ქართველ სპეციალისტთა მიერ. ის ყოველთვის არ ეთანხმება ბდსკ წითელი ნუსხის სტატუსს. ნუსხაშივეა მითითებული შეტანილია თუ არა სახეობა საქართველოსა და სსრკ წითელ წიგნებში (RDB), საქართველოს მთავრობის 1992 წლის 17 აპრილის №433 დადგენილებაში (1992) საქართველოს წითელ წიგნის შესახებ. მოკლედია მითითებული სახეობათა გავრცელება რეგიონების მიხედვით — აღმოსავლეთი, დასავლეთი და სამხრეთი, ენდემიზმის ხარისხი, ბიოტოპური განაწილება და სიმაღლისეული გავრცელება.

A.K. Бухникашвилл, А. С. Кандауров

Аннотированный список млекопитающих Грузии

(Резюме)

В Грузии обитает 109 видов млекопитающих, объединенных в 62 рода, 26 семейств, относящихся к 7 отрядам. Из этого числа 4 вида, возможно, уже не встречаются в диком виде на территории Грузии. 8 видов были акклиматизированы в Грузии или проникли сюда после вселения на соседние территории. 5 видов найдены вблизи границ Грузии или даже замечены на территории Грузии, но публикации о поимке их в Грузии или музейные материалы неизвестны.

В настоящем списке для каждого вида приводится название (научное и английское), указывается число хромосом или (2n) и число плеч аутосом (NFa). Для всех видов указан статус в соответствии с требованиями Красного Списка МСОП (Red List IUCN) так, как он определен грузинскими специалистами. Этот статус не всегда совпадает со статусом вида в

самом Красном Списке. Указывается, внесен ли вид в Красную книгу ГССР и СССР и занесен ли он в список Постановления Правительства Грузии №433 от 17 апреля 1992г. Кратко описываются распространение вида по регионам Грузии (Восточная, Западная и Южная Грузия), степень его эндемичности, биотопические предпочтения и распределение по высотам в горах.

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O.G.Bendukidze

THE WOLF AND THE DOG: THE PROBLEM OF THE DOMESTIC DOG'S ORIGIN

The domestic dog was, probably, the most ancient domestic animal and this fact is very important. The precedent of its domestication marks the beginning of domestication process, which spelled the appearance of another domesticated form later.

At present the most ancient remains of dogs occur, at least, in three regions of Eurasia. In particular, R. Musil (1998) discovered these ones in magdalenian stations of Germany. The remains of ancient dogs in the East, in Siberia occurred approximately from the same epoch [4]. We described also the remains of the dog from the final pleistocene of South Caucasia [2]. These finds indicate that the process of dog's domestication occurred almost on the great territory synchronically and the idea of the dog's domestication was widespread in Eurasia area in the relatively short period [3].

The appearance of the gun dog (which one was in fact the Paleolithic dog) means the appearance of the new, more progressive method of hunting for archeologists which was widespread later in Europe and in Asia [5]. It is interesting to notice, that the appearance of the Paleolithic domestic dog concurs with the beginning of hunting specialization [3], when the primitive hunters began to obtain only a few species of the undulate animals. Analogical method of hunting, probably, existed also in Western Transcaucasia. The finding of one tooth of the relatively big dogs in one of the paleolithic layers of Dzouzuana cave's (Imeretia region) is confirmed by this one.

Thus it is not excluded, that remains of two or three (maximum four) species of herbivorous, which were found in the many Late Paleolithic settlements in Central Europe, Russian plan, in Caucasia and in Siberia also,