TALPID MOLES — DISTRIBUTION AND CLASSIFICATION IN RELATION TO GENETICAL AND MORPHOMETRICAL RESEARCH

Summary

The article presents current systematics of moles *Talpidae* based on latest genetical and morphometrical investigation.

There were some changes into ordo *Insectivora* and now two families: moles *Talpidae* and shrews *Soricidae* create ordo *Soricomorpha* together with family *Solenodontidae* and extinct family *Nesophontidae*. Subfamilia *Talpinae* includes genus *Talpa*, which is present in Europe, *Euroscaptor*, *Parascaptor*, *Scaptochirus*, that are inhabitant Asia and *Mogera* living in Japan. More information about *Euroscaptor*, *Parascaptor*, *Scaptochirus* and *Mogera* is showed in table number 3.

The paper also concerns the problems of occurience and geographical range of currently living *Talpa* moles in relation to historical processes of speciation and radiation. There are nine species of *Talpa* moles nowadays. Four of them (*T. altaica, T. caucasica, T. levantis* and *T. davidiana*) occupy the area of Asia from Middle East to the Altai Mountains. Europe is inhabited by next five species (*T. europaea*, *T. caeca*, *T., romana*, *T. occidentalis* and *T. stankovici*). Their current location is connected with last glaciations in Pleistocen.

There is only one species, *T. europaea*, in Poland. It is widely distributed from seacoast to Tatra Mountains. It occupies almost all types of habitats included meadows, arable fields, pastures and woodlands. Rocky, stony and very sandy solils are not prefered by European mole. The article also presents factors influencing the presence and spatial distribution of European mole *Talpa europaea*.