

PHYLOGEOGRAPHY OF MAMMALS IN EUROPE – RESEARCH CONCEPTION AND SELECTED QUESTIONS

Summary

Phylogeography is a field of study concerned with the principles and processes governing the geographic distributions of genealogical lineages, especially those within and among closely related species. To establish and illustrate the evolutionary relationships between genetic lineages nuclear and mitochondrial DNA markers, fossil records and bioinformatics are used. The obtained information has

allowed characterization of phylogeographic patterns in European mammal populations (e.g. identification of post-glacial suture zones and glacial refugia), reconstruction of the most probable post-glacial recolonization scenarios and estimation of how the Last Glacial Maximum influenced the post-glacial history of mammals in Europe.