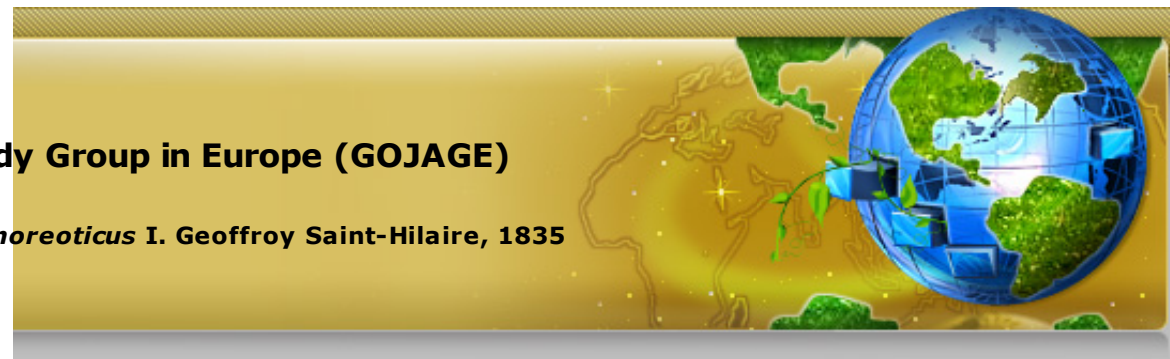




GOLDEN JACKAL informal study Group in Europe (GOJAGE)

Canis aureus Linnaeus, 1758 *ssp moreoticus* I. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1835



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BULGARIA, April 16th 2013

ESTONIA JACKAL ORIGIN and LUPASTER taxonomy in North AFRICA

After Giorgos Giannatos, Environmental Ecologist, who introduced bio-acoustic stimulation to jackal studies in Europe in 2001, with lot of experience in jackal ecology, expressed on 9.04.2013 his opinion regarding Jackal recent observations in Estonia, Prof Dr Nikolai Spassov sent us now his opinion about the Estonian situation. While Luca Lapini, Ivana Selanec and Ovidiu Banea believe that jackals reached naturally Matsalu National Park Reserve in West Estonia, Giorgos Giannatos believes that jackal were introduced or they exist as allochthonous species.



[Nikolai Spassov](#), 16.04.2013

The fact of discovery of a small group of jackals in Estonia is rather strange. This canid is not adapted to vast forests, cold winters and deep snow, which represent main obstacles for the existence of the jackal population in Europe and Central Asia. That's why its dispersal till these northern latitudes seems abnormal from the point of view of the knowledge of the ecological requirements of the species. From the other hand we need to have in mind two circumstances: the extreme ability for adaptation of the high mammals as carnivores and especially the canids; the human factor (the creation of additional quantity of food resources, as well as road building which helps the invasion of impenetrable territories). The human factor is the cause of the extreme and unique, as it seems, jackal expansion in Europe during the last decades. The natural penetration of the Jackal in Estonia seems rather doubtful, but possibly it is not absolutely improbable as a consequence of the extreme growth of the population in the South-East of Europe and the existing impulses of dispersal in relation to this. On the other hand, I don't believe in the subsistence of a jackal population in this northern country. If this is a natural colonization the attempt of survival in northern latitudes is condemned to failure... without an additional human help.

Regarding our note about genetics use in *Canis* genus phylogeny, Nikolai Spassov presented the following supplementary data on *Canis lupaster* taxonomy: It is possible that it is closer to wolves than to jackal, but its morphology demonstrates specific features, and I still **believe that it is a separate species**.

Related to DNA results, Dr Spassov reminded that the *Canis lupaster species* could have a common ancestor with the wolf but retains some plesiomorphic features.

[Entire GOJAGE report and Nikolai Spassov](#) fragment of original paper, about *Canis lupaster* skull and teeth morphological feature, [here](#). In Bibliography chapter of this page, [Spassov N., 1989 The position of jackals in the *Canis* genus and life-history of the golden jackal \(*Canis aureus*\) in Bulgaria and on the Balkans](#) is available.

On the End of the 2013, Ilya Acosta Pankov, biologist in Sofia will start jackal ecology study inside his thesis program as PhD candidate with Prof Dr Spassov as thesis director.

LEGISLATION JACKALS at EU 25 (27 countries) level is Near Threatened Category in IUCN Red List

Temple, H.J. and Terry, A. (Compilers). 2007. [The Status and Distribution of European Mammals. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities. viii + 48pp, 210 x 297 mm.](#)

The 2007 European Union lifted the golden jackal species status from Least Concern to Near Threatened.

About the legal status of the species in Europe. [Interview](#) on Radio Romania International (PDF in [French](#)). Redactor Teofilia Nistor, Emisiunea INFO TERRA. Original audio [MP3](#) in Romanian

Appendix 1. Red List status of European mammals

Order	Family	Species	IUCN Red List Category (Europe)	IUCN Red List Criteria (Europe)	IUCN Red List Category (EU 25)	IUCN Red List Criteria (EU 25)	Endemic to Europe? (Y/N)*
ARTIODACTYLA	BOVIDAE	<i>Bison bonasus</i>	VU	D1	VU	D1	N
ARTIODACTYLA	BOVIDAE	<i>Bos primigenius</i>	EX		EX		N
ARTIODACTYLA	BOVIDAE	<i>Capra ibex</i>	LC		LC		Y
ARTIODACTYLA	BOVIDAE	<i>Capra pyrenaica</i>	LC		LC		Y
ARTIODACTYLA	BOVIDAE	<i>Capra hircus</i>	NA		NA		N
ARTIODACTYLA	BOVIDAE	<i>Ovis aries</i>	NA		NA		N
ARTIODACTYLA	BOVIDAE	<i>Rupicapra pyrenaica</i>	LC		LC		Y
ARTIODACTYLA	BOVIDAE	<i>Rupicapra rupicapra</i>	LC		LC		N
ARTIODACTYLA	BOVIDAE	<i>Saiga tatarica</i>	CR	A2a	NE		N
ARTIODACTYLA	CERVIDAE	<i>Alces alces</i>	LC		LC		N
ARTIODACTYLA	CERVIDAE	<i>Capreolus pygargus</i>	LC		NE		N

ARTIODACTYLA	CERVIDAE	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	LC		LC		N
ARTIODACTYLA	CERVIDAE	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	LC		LC		N
ARTIODACTYLA	CERVIDAE	<i>Dama dama</i>	LC		LC		N
ARTIODACTYLA	CERVIDAE	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>	LC		LC		N
ARTIODACTYLA	SUIDAE	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	LC		LC		N
CARNIVORA	CANIDAE	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>	LC		CR	D1, C2a(i)	N
CARNIVORA	CANIDAE	<i>Canis aureus</i>	LC		NT		N
CARNIVORA	CANIDAE	<i>Canis lupus</i>	LC		LC		N
CARNIVORA	CANIDAE	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	LC		LC		N
CARNIVORA	CANIDAE	<i>Vulpes corsac</i>	LC		NE		N
CARNIVORA	FELIDAE	<i>Felis chaus</i>	NA		NE		N
CARNIVORA	FELIDAE	<i>Felis silvestris</i>	LC		NT		N
CARNIVORA	FELIDAE	<i>Lynx lynx</i>	LC		NT		N
CARNIVORA	FELIDAE	<i>Lynx pardinus</i>	CR	C2a(i)	CR	C2a(i)	Y
CARNIVORA	HERPESTIDAE	<i>Herpestes ichneumon</i>	LC		LC		N
CARNIVORA	MUSTELIDAE	<i>Gulo gulo</i>	VU	A2cd; C1	VU	D1	N
CARNIVORA	MUSTELIDAE	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	NT		NT		N
CARNIVORA	MUSTELIDAE	<i>Martes foina</i>	LC		LC		N
CARNIVORA	MUSTELIDAE	<i>Martes martes</i>	LC		LC		N
CARNIVORA	MUSTELIDAE	<i>Martes zibellina</i>	NA		NE		N
CARNIVORA	MUSTELIDAE	<i>Meles meles</i>	LC		LC		N
CARNIVORA	MUSTELIDAE	<i>Mustela putorius</i>	LC		NT		N
CARNIVORA	MUSTELIDAE	<i>Mustela sibirica</i>	NA		NE		N
CARNIVORA	MUSTELIDAE	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>	LC		LC		N
CARNIVORA	MUSTELIDAE	<i>Mustela lutreola</i>	EN	A2ce	CR	A2ce	N
CARNIVORA	MUSTELIDAE	<i>Mustela erminea</i>	LC		LC		N
CARNIVORA	MUSTELIDAE	<i>Mustela eversmanii</i>	LC		EN	C2a(i)	N
CARNIVORA	MUSTELIDAE	<i>Vormela peregusna</i>	VU	A2c	NA		N

WHO IS LOOKING 2013

From the beginning of 2013 **GO**lden **JA**ckal Informal Study **G**roup in **E**urope GOJAGE www.goldenjackal.eu had **5799** visits of 1828 unic visitors from 87 countries. Here, only a part of statistics. [Click](#) on photo to enlarge it!