

CHRONICLE

The Third European Congress of Mammalogy: Problems and Impressions

The Third European Congress of Mammalogy was held in Jyväskylä, Lake District of Central Finland on May 29 – June 3, 1999. The Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences of the University of Jyväskylä, and also *Societas Europaea Mammalogica* and *Confennia Ltd* hosted the meeting. Jyväskylä is a lively university town and also an important center of trade that is located in the central part of the lake district by Lake Päijänne. The nature of this region includes different elements of Finnish landscape and also the white nights are characteristic of Jyväskylä Region – there are almost twenty hours of the daylight. The Congress was a large meeting in ecological science. More than 440 official participants from Europe, Asia, USA, New Zealand, Australia took part in the Congress. The Congress started with Opening Session featured the first Keynote Lecture in the University of Jyväskylä and continued in the *Jyväskylä Paviljonki*, the new Congress and Trade Fair Centre, located on the shore of Lake *Jyväsjärvi*. The Congress mainly focused on scientific research carried out on the general mammalian biology and ecology. It was designed to fulfil the current scientific demands and attract researchers of a broad field who are engaged in mammal's investigations. There were two parallel sessions of oral presentations in four rooms, a lot of posters were displayed in the special hall with a central location next to the lectures room allowing frequent observation during the breaks of the oral presentations and plenary talks. Each day there was a lecture by a world-class plenary speaker invited by the Scientific Committee of the Congress. The main plenary talks were presented by Heikki Henttonen (Finland), Heribert Hofer (Germany), Bernt-Erik Sæther (Norway) and other researchers. Because of a great number of posters (179) there were organized two demonstrations for two days each. The poster sessions of 24 special and general themes (such as General fields: Game biology, Behavioural ecology, Ecology, Genetics, Evolution *etc.*, Special fields: Large predator ecology, Ecology of ungulates, Endangered animals, Mammalian landscape ecology, Mammalian predator ecology and impact on small game and rodent populations, Diseases,

parasites and mammal populations, Applied ecology in mammalian management, Plant-mammal interactions, *etc.*) were recognized and attracted all participants. The general fields of presentations were Evolution, Behavioural Ecology, Game Biology, Ecology, Biogeography, Genetics, Taxonomy and Physiology of mammals. Many reports and posters included interesting and valuable methodological solutions, diversity of the animal species and their living conditions, the interactions between animals and different habitat components. The Congress sessions based on 22 specific symposia and some workshops such as: Plant – mammal interactions; Advances in game research and management in boreal regions; Ecology of ungulates; Applied population ecology in mammals; Population regulation in varying environments; Mammalian landscape ecology; Large predator ecology; *etc.*, IUCN/SSC Specialist group – Otter workshop “How to better standardize the “standard” method for otter surveys?”, “Otters and fishery”, IUCN Specialist group/Canids, *etc.*

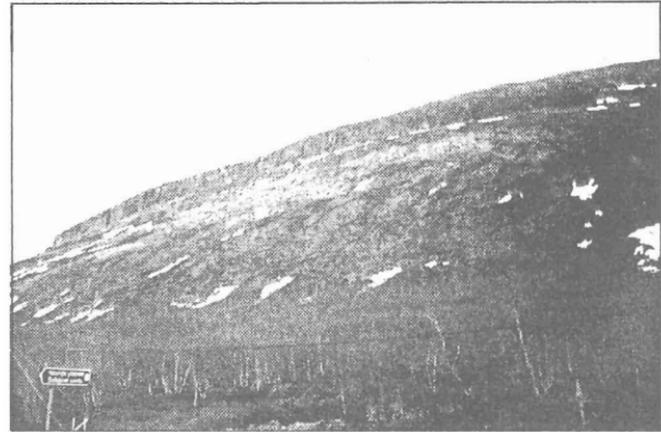
The participants of the Congress had possibilities to make for the different post-congress tours. The author of this information participated in the study tour with the demonstration of the long-term research conducted on rodent on the Kilpisjärvi area in Finnish Lapland. This is the northernmost and one of the last wilderness are-



Lapland (Finland). Kilpisjärvi surroundings. Birch forest (*Betula pubescens* subsp. *Czerepanovii*).

as. June is unpredictable time on these areas and snow and warm weather are possible as well as the Midnight Sun is continuously above the horizon on the Arctic Cycle at Kilpisjärvi. There is the Kilpisjärvi Biological Station of the Helsinki University, which was founded in 1964. The way from airport of Kittilä to Kilpisjärvi Biological Station is distinguished by the transition from spruce dominated taiga and finally to subarctic birch forest zone in Finnish Lapland. There are altitudes of 1000 m and more. The flora and fauna have made this region especially attractive to researchers.

The most of the mammal species are important and indispensable components of forest ecosystems and receive the great attention of the foresters. Animals together with other components of ecosystem affected forest composition, the dynamics, vitality, sustainability, total biological diversity and, on the other hand, are affected by the environment in return. The implementation of the main goals of the forestry would be insufficient without ecological knowledge of animals in their habitats. On the other hand, the implementing of the significant Conventions and Directives such as EU



Lapland (Finland). Kilpisjärvi biological station. Saana mountain (>1020 m).

Habitat Directive, Bern Convention, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, CITES, Biodiversity-related Conventions and Regulations would be insufficient without the knowledge of the wild animal habitats and other living conditions.

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