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The natural extension of the Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus* L.) in Constanța County

ABSTRACT

In the south and south-west of Constanța County, Red Deer have been seen only for the last three decades. Even though they might have come from the south (Bulgaria), in the wake of the inter-war actions taken by the Romanian state to populate the Quadrilateral (Cadrilater) area yet their origin is Carpathian. Only the deer present in the Cochirleni area have migrated from the west (Călărași County). The first specimens were spotted at Dumbrăveni in 1980, ten years later the species would enlarge its territory extending by some 36 times over the past 30 years according to the hunting funds they were seen on, basically from 2,500 ha in 1982 to 80,000 ha in 2006. While in the beginning it roamed only in Dumbrăveni Forest (1982), in 1991 it inhabited five hunting funds (Dumbrăveni, Șipote, Decebal, Adamclisi and Negru Vodă), and nine over 1998-2005 (Dumbrăveni, Șipote, Decebal, Adamclisi, Carvăn, Băneasa, Negureni, Cochirleni and Negru Vodă). In 2006, their habitat was limited to eight, they having disappeared from the neighbourhood of Negureni Village. From 1980 to date, Dumbrăveni Forest shelters most of Constanța County Red Deer population whose number had grown 60 times (from 5 to 303 individuals) between 1980 and 2006.