

ACOUSTIC SURVEY ON GOLDEN JACKAL POPULATION IN THE AREA OF SASTYA GAME MANAGEMENT UNIT

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The aim of our study was based on field research to estimate the population density of golden jackal (*Canis aureus*) -which is continuously spreading in Hungary - in the area of Sastya Hunting Club, Vajszló (Ormánság region, SW Hungary). The species has been living here for two decades, so based on earlier studies it has a stable population in this area. Acoustic monitoring method was used to estimate the density. Survey was executed in March and in November 2012, during two precipitation-free and windless nights. Size of the study area was 1570 hectares in spring and 2200 hectares in autumn. During the first field-work howling of 5 different jackal groups were detected (1 individual in 1 case, 2 individuals in 1 case, more than 2 individuals in 3 cases); 9 different groups were heard in the second survey (1 individual in 1 case, 2 individuals in 2 cases, more than 2 individuals in 6 cases). The estimated group density was 3,2 in spring and 4,1 in autumn by 1000 hectares. Our results are in accordance with earlier studies done in this region.

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