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STUDY ON WILD ANIMALS' DYNAMICS ON 66 TOLVADIA HUNTING AREA FROM TIMIS COUNTY DURING 2021-2024

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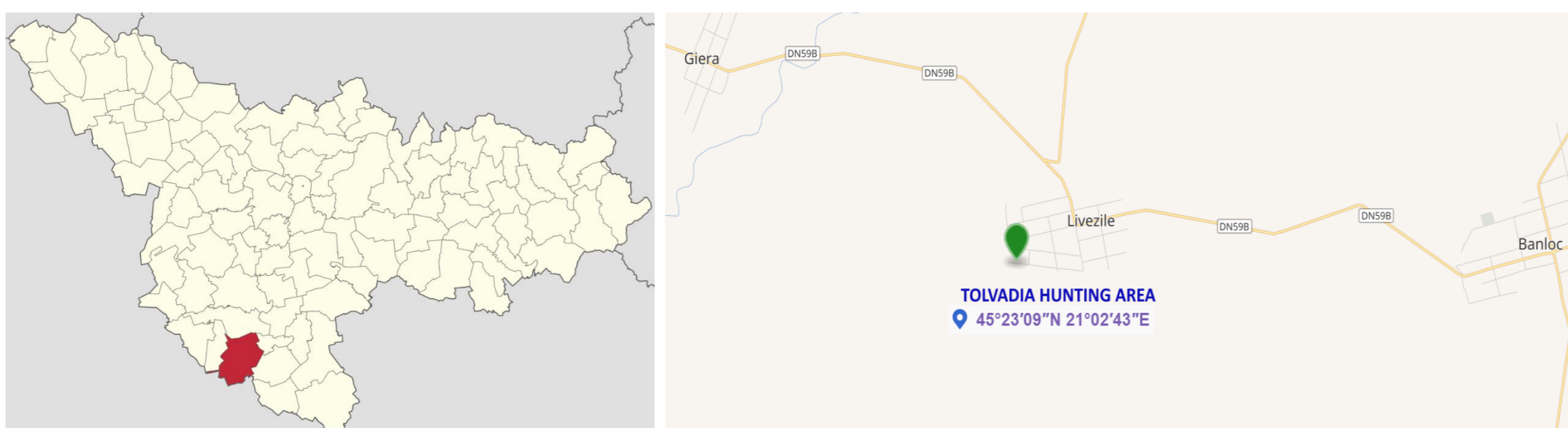
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Abstract: The EU integration of the Romania is imposing a special attention to the populations of wild animals for hunting. The hunt was always a spring of rich in our country, not only by the large number of animals but also by the variety of species. The hunt represents the oldest occupation, before all others humans were hunter and gatherer. As old as man, the hunt evolved with the humans and with the development of the society. The aim of the present paper was to study the quantitative evolution of the hunting population for 13 animal species during 2021-2024, on 66 Tovaldia hunting area, from Timis County, heaving a total area of 12,557 ha. The study shows that form the 13 monitored animal species, 6 were not identified on this hunting area: Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus* L.), Fallow Deer (*Dama dama* L.), Wildcat (*Felis silvestris* L.), Grey Partridge (*Pedrix pedrix* L.), Weasel (*Mustela nivalis* L.) and Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethica* L.). We recommend the permanent monitoring and limitation of populations from the Canidae family, especially of the Jackal (*Canis aureus* L.) species and Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes* L.) species. The present study recommends the revival of the existing population on this hunting area, through "blood refreshing" actions.

• Introduction

The integration of Romania into the European Union has necessitated a heightened focus on the populations of wild animals designated for hunting. Historically, hunting has been a significant aspect of Romania's cultural and natural heritage, characterized not only by the large numbers of animals but also by the diverse variety of species. Hunting, one of the oldest human occupations, has evolved in tandem with human society, from its inception as a means of survival to its current role in wildlife management and conservation.



• Material and method

The present study aimed to analyze the quantitative evolution of hunting populations for 13 animal species from 2021 to 2024 in the 66 Tovaldia hunting area of Timiș County, covering 12,557 hectares. The findings reveal that six of the 13 monitored species were not identified in this area: Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus* L.), Fallow Deer (*Dama dama* L.), Wildcat (*Felis silvestris* L.), Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix* L.), Weasel (*Mustela nivalis* L.), and Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus* L.).

• Results and discussions

The absence of these species raises significant concerns regarding biodiversity and ecosystem balance.

To address these issues, the study recommends continuous monitoring and population control, especially for Canidae family members such as the Jackal (*Canis aureus* L.) and the Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes* L.). These species, if not properly managed, could disrupt the ecological balance.



Furthermore, the study advocates for revitalizing existing wildlife populations in the hunting area through "blood refreshing" actions, which involve introducing new individuals into the populations to enhance genetic diversity and overall health. These measures are essential for maintaining a balanced ecosystem and ensuring the sustainability of hunting practices in the region.

Moreover, the study emphasizes the need for proactive measures to revitalize the wildlife populations in the 66 Tovaldia hunting area. This can be achieved through "blood refreshing" actions, which involve introducing new individuals to enhance genetic diversity and the overall health of the populations. These steps are crucial for maintaining ecological stability and ensuring the sustainability of hunting practices in the region.

• Conclusions

In conclusion, the integration of Romania into the EU has brought to the forefront the importance of sustainable wildlife management. This study underscores the need for meticulous monitoring, population control, and revitalization efforts to preserve Romania's rich hunting heritage and ensure ecological balance in the 66 Tovaldia hunting area.

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