

HEART SIZE IN WOOD PIGEON *COLUMBA PALUMBUS* (LINNAEUS, 1758)

Bartłomiej Bartyzel^{1*}, Henryk Kobryń¹, Tomasz Szara¹, Izabela Podbielska², Piotr Myslek³

¹*Department of Morphological Sciences, Warsaw, Poland;*

^{*}*Correspondence to Bartłomiej Bartyzel, Department of Morphological Sciences, Warsaw Agricultural University, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, ul. Nowoursynowska 159, 02-776 Warszawa, Poland, Fax: +48 22 8473783; e-mail: bartyzel@alpha.sggw.waw.pl*

²*Military Institute of Medicine, Clinic of Cardiology and Metabolic Diseases, Warsaw, Poland*

³*Department of Zoology, Szczecin, Poland*

Abstract. The morphological studies covered 37 hearts (preserved in 10% formaldehyde) of adult wood pigeons *Columba palumbus* (18 males and 19 females). Mean body weight, total heart weight, and the weights of its parts (anterior wall of right ventricle, left ventricle with interventricular septum, posterior wall of right ventricle, and both atrioventricular valves), as well as the height, width, and girth of the heart, were determined for each sex separately and for the whole sample. No statistically significant differences were found in respective traits between males and females. Besides the absolute parameters, relative indices were also calculated: relative heart weight (as a percentage of body weight), and the proportion of the left and right ventricle in the heart weight. These indices for the wood pigeon are, respectively, 1,24%, 0,26%, and 0,63%. Moreover, an allometric equation was estimated for the relationship between the heart weight (H) and the body weight (B), in the following form: $\log H = 0,685 \log B - 1,065$. Corresponding data reported by other authors were used in this study for comparisons.

Keywords: wood pigeon; *Columba palumbus*, heart parameters, body weight