

## PHENETIC STUDIES OF THE SPECIES *TALPA EUROPAEA* L. IN LITHUANIA

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**Summary.** Seventeen non-metric features of the mole skull with 40 variants of these features have been determined. Dependence of non-metric features of the mole skulls on age and sex has been established: three features (No2; No4; No5) are related to age and five features (No3; No7; No10; No14; No17) depend on sex. Nine working phenetic features of the mole skull with 20 variants have been determined. It has been elucidated that the phenetic structure of moles is determined by natural factors. The impact of river barriers and the Nemunas glacier on the formation of the population-phenetic structure of Lithuanian moles has been established. Having studied the phenetic structure of the mole subpopulations, the earliest origin of Puvočiai No1 subpopulation was established. The results obtained by means of the phenetic research method showed that phenetic distances were determined by the development of the historic changes in a landscape. No reliable correlation between a geographical distance among the samples and phenetic similarity of moles in a geochronological space were established ( $p > 0.05$ ). It was elucidated that the population structure of the moles (*Talpa europaea*) was determined by a complex of natural factors in Lithuania.

**Keywords:** *Talpa europaea*, mole, skull, phenetic structure, population.