

DIFFERENCES IN MORPHOLOGICAL FEATURES BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MOLES OF *TALPA* AND *ASIOSCALOPS* GENERA

Marija Starodubaitė¹, Mikhail Potapov², Aniolas Sruoga³, Dalius Butkauskas¹, Vadim Evsikov²

¹*Nature Research Centre, Akademijos str. 2, LT-08412 Vilnius – 21, Lithuania; e-mail: mari_lit@yahoo.com.*

²*Institute of Animal Systematics and Ecology SB RAS, Frunze 11, 630091 Novosibirsk, Russia; e-mail: map@ngs.ru.*

³*Vytautas Magnus University, K. Donelaičio 58, LT-44248 Kaunas, Lithuania; e-mail: aniolas@ekoi.lt.*

Summary. Significant differences in the exterior and craniometrical features according to metrical and habitual characteristics and complex characteristics between the representatives of the *Talpa* and *Asioscalops* genera were observed by means of multiple statistical methods. The distance between the clusters of the genus *Talpa* and the genus *Asioscalops* corresponds to separation distance of the genus *Mogera* from the general root of the phylogenetic tree and greatly exceeds the separation distance between the species and subspecies within the genera under investigation. Thus morphological data and anatomical, ecological and physiological peculiarities of the representatives of the investigated genus confirm the conclusion of the prominent Russian scientists S.Stroganov and B.Judin about attributing the Siberian mole to the genus *Asioscalops*.

Keywords: *Talpa* and *Asioscalops*, *Mogera*, morphology.