



Buchbesprechung

ANDERSEN, R.; DUNCAN, P.; LINNELL, J. D. C. (eds.) (1998): **The European roe deer: The biology of success.** Oslo, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Oxford, Boston: Scandinavian University Press. Hardcover, 376 pp., numerous illust. Norwegian Kr 378,-/DM 86,-/US\$ 48,-. ISBN 82-00-37682-6.

This book introduces the reader to a wide range of biological and conservational aspects of the most common European ungulate species. 39 authors from 26 institutions in nine countries have cooperated and produced a volume that is much more than an introduction to a game species. Hunting lore cannot be found in this book at all, but a wealth of information about *Capreolus capreolus*. This cervid extended its range during the course of the last century far into Fennoscandia. A small "population ... in 1850 has extended to cover much of Sweden, Norway and Finland" (HOLAND et al., this volume).

The contents of the present publication consists of 14 chapters, all of them multi-authored. According to the impression of the reviewer these chapters can be grouped into five sections: In the first one (chapters 1 to 4) a general portrait of *Capreolus capreolus* is presented, followed by an introduction into general morphology and evolution of this successful species and into its glacial and post-glacial distribution. A chapter on its genetics follows, as was revealed by modern investigations on molecular variability, population history and structure.

The second section (chapters 5 and 6) deals with feeding and physiology of digestion and – extraordinarily interesting – with physiological and behavioural adaptations of the species to northern environments. The following four chapters could be grouped under the headline "General and special ecology". Roe deer is discussed as a prey of carnivorous mammals (red fox, wolf, and lynx); the reproductive physiology of *Capreolus capreolus* is dealt with and information on the social organization, as well as on the mating systems (under special consideration of male territoriality) are considered in detail. The section comprising chapters 11 to 13 deals with the early period of roe deer life and discusses life-history parameters, as well as population dynamics of that species. The concluding chapter 14 presents information on the management of *Capreolus capreolus* and on the influence of this species on the environment.

The editors managed to present the different chapters in similar styles. At the end of each chapter the authors give an extensive list of references and the book is concluded by a useful index of 31/2 pages. As a whole, this most informative volume on an interesting and successful cervid species is excellent reading for any mammalogist. It has to be considered as a special asset of this book that emphasis is paid to roe deer in northern Europe and not so much to those from the central part of the continent where extensive reviews have been published previously (v. RAESFELD 1965; STRANDGAARD 1972; ELLENBERG, 1978). From this new synthesis the reader can collect a wealth of up-to-date information not only on roe deer, but on general aspects of ecology, population dynamics and ungulate biology, to name just a few.

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