



Seymska Population of Russian Desman (*Desmana moschata* L.) in North-Eastern Part of Ukraine: A History of Formation and Current State

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Abstract: Endemic of the East European Plain and the oldest representative of Europe's modern fauna is the Russian desman (*Desmana moschata* L.). The animal is subject to strict protection. The International Union of nature protection has identified the status of Russian desman as an endangered species. The desman is registered in the European Red List as a vulnerable species. It is also listed in Annex II of the Berne Convention. In the Red Book of Ukraine desmans are listed as an endangered relict species. Nowadays only the seymska population *D. moschata* can be found in Ukraine. It is highly fragmented and numbers about 300-500 individuals. In terms of structure we can delineate 3 areas: the seymska-the largest, is in the floodplain of the Seym river; the vyrivska-covers the floodplain of the Vyr river, the left tributary of the Seym river; the klevenska-covers the floodplain of the Kleven river, the right tributary of the Seym river. In general, the population is in a very depressed state and is very affected by anthropogenic pressure.

Keywords: *Desmana moschata* L., A modern state, The north-eastern Ukraine, The seymska population
