

## **The content of the selected mineral components in the liver of the European bisons at different age**

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### **Summary**

The research material included liver samples, collected from 25 European bisons eliminated during the annual selection – reduction shooting, conducted in the Białowieża Forest in the years 2005-2007. The aim of the work was to analyze the content of macroelements and the selected microelements in the liver of the European bison, depending on age, as compared to the reference values for cattle and the results of earlier studies, conducted in the Białowieża Forest. The content of the analyzed macro- and microelements in the liver in all age groups of the bisons was found within the limits of values, adopted as physiological ones for cattle, except for Cu. Any statistically confirmed differences concerning the effect of the age on the contents of micro- and macroelements in the liver of the European bison were not recorded. The levels of Ca, P, Na, Mg, Mn and Zn in the livers of the bisons, as studied in the years 2005-2007 were higher, K similar, Cu and Co were lower as compared to the results of the studies, conducted in the years 1998-2003. The contents of Cu, as determined in the livers of all age groups of the bison in own studies indicate clinical deficiency of the discussed element, which occurred also in the years 1998-2003.

KEY WORDS: bison / liver / macroelements / microelements