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Geographical variation of antler morphology of moose (Alces alces) in Russia

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We attempt to identify geographical subdivisions within the range of moose according to antler size for a more correct trophy evaluation in the CIC system (The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation). Traditionally, this division coincides with subspecific division of trophy animal species. That is why we partially touch upon the problem of the geography of moose subspecies in Eurasia. Catalogs of hunters' trophies that were available to us served as the research material (1,047 trophies in total). We were choosing the same measurements for moose antlers evaluated by different methods. They are overall spread, circumference of beam, width of palm, and number of tines. We applied multivariate statistic methods to the findings, enlarging the geographical division groups step by step. As a result, we suggest four geographical groups: European, Siberian, the north of the Far East, and the south of the Far East. In principle, this division corresponds to the subspecies: European (Alces alces alces L., 1758), east Siberian (A. a. pfizenmayeri Zukowsky, 1910), Chukotka or Kolyma (A. a. buturlini Chernyavski et. Zhelesnov, 1982), and Ussuri (A. a. cameloides Milne-Edwards, 1867). We consider it incorrect to draw the line between the European and Siberian groups along the river Yenisei. It is more correct to move it to the Urals.