

COLOUR VARIATIONS OF FUR IN COMMON HAMSTER *CRICETUS CRICETUS* (Linnaeus, 1758) AND COMMON VOLE *MICROTUS ARVALIS* (Pallas, 1779). Ljubica Krsmanović, J. J. Purger, J. P. Šoti,
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Although being one the taxonomically valuable characters, the colour of fur is subject of individual variations, as well as variations due to the factors induced by the environment. These variations are within certain limits and mostly include differences in the shade of basic coloration. In some cases, as a consequence of genetic changes, the coloration of some individuals is drastically changed and is atypical for the given species.

During population researches of small mammals in the area of Vojvodina, a common hamster and a common vole with an unusual fur colour were captured.

On August 28, 1985 on a plowed field near the village of Bačko Gradište, a black female of the species *Cricetus cricetus* L. was captured. Instead of the customary colour shade of brown fur it was black (the fur on the ventral and dorsal side of the body was completely black). A light, almost white colour of fur being normally on the snout, cheeks, around ears and in the level of extremities, was also found on this individual. The analysis of such black samples appearance throughout the areal was made by Niethammer (1982). The black female is reared at the Institute for Biology in Novi Sad, and up to now had two litters. In the progeny of F₁ generation, the black colour was not expressed.

On April 3, 1988 at the village of Doroslovo (west Bačka) about 700 m east of the Doroslovo forest, on an alfalfa field, an unusually coloured common vole (*Microtus arvalis*) was caught. At the dorsal part of the body, besides the typical grayish fur, two black spots were noticed. One black spot was in the region of the neck, (size 10 x 15 mm), and the other on the rear part of the body (30 x 40 mm). A difference in the type of fur was also observed. The black fur was shiny and fine and reminded to the mole fur, while the gray fur was more rough and not shiny. In the literature available, there was no description of such a coloration of common vole (Niethammer and Krapp 1982). The preparation of fur, of the damage skull and the photo-documentation is available at the In-

stitute of Biology in Novi Sad. The capture of this individual points out to the necessity of populational genetic researches of small mammals.

References: Niethammer, J. (1982). *Handbuch der Säugetiere Europas*, 2/1, 7—28, (Ed. Niethammer und Krapp, AV), Wiesbaden. Niethammer, J., Krapp, F. (1982). *Handbuch der Säugetiere Europas*, 2/1, 284—318, (Ed. Niethammer und Krapp, AV), Wiesbaden.