

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b> . . . . .	1
<b>2</b>	<b>Systematics, Registration and Nomenclature</b> . . . . .	5
2.1	The Species and Its Subspecies . . . . .	7
2.2	Breeding Lines . . . . .	9
2.2.1	The Lowland or Białowieża Line . . . . .	9
2.2.2	The Lowland-Caucasian Line . . . . .	10
2.3	The European Bison Pedigree Book . . . . .	12
2.4	Nomenclature . . . . .	18
<b>3</b>	<b>Morphology and Longevity</b> . . . . .	21
3.1	Features of Build and Senses . . . . .	21
3.2	Body Mass . . . . .	29
3.3	Body Size . . . . .	32
3.4	Longevity . . . . .	33
<b>4</b>	<b>Aspects of the Genetics of European Bison</b> . . . . .	35
4.1	Chromosome Number . . . . .	35
4.2	Genetic Background to the Recovery of the Species . . . . .	36
4.3	The Genetic Status of the Contemporary Population . . . . .	36
4.3.1	Is There Anything We Can Do to Improve Genetics of the European Bison? . . . . .	40
4.3.2	Save the Rare Maternal (mtDNA) Lines . . . . .	40
4.3.3	Improve Ne and Genetic Variability . . . . .	40
4.3.4	Stop Culling to Sustain Genetic Variability . . . . .	40
<b>5</b>	<b>The Original Range of the Species <i>Bison bonasus</i> (L.)</b> . . . . .	41
<b>6</b>	<b>The European Bison and the Aurochs on Polish Territory</b> . . . . .	45
<b>7</b>	<b>The Natural Population of Lowland European Bison in the Białowieża Forest</b> . . . . .	51
7.1	In Historical Times . . . . .	51

7.2	Royal Hunts . . . . .	53
7.3	The Hunts of the Tsars . . . . .	59
7.4	Transfers of Bison . . . . .	61
7.5	The 19th Century Abundance of the European Bison . . . . .	62
7.6	The Extermination of the Lowland Bison . . . . .	64
<b>8</b>	<b>The Restitution of the European Bison in Enclosures</b>	
	<b>Within the Białowieża Forest . . . . .</b>	<b>67</b>
8.1	The Białowieża European Bison Breeding Centre . . . . .	71
8.1.1	The Breeding Reserves . . . . .	71
8.1.2	The Show Reserve . . . . .	77
<b>9</b>	<b>European Bison in the Białowieża Forest: A Characterisation</b>	
	<b>of the Environment . . . . .</b>	<b>81</b>
9.1	Location Size and Climate . . . . .	82
9.2	The Western (Polish) Part . . . . .	84
9.3	The Eastern (Belarussian) Part . . . . .	86
<b>10</b>	<b>The Restitution of a Free-Ranging Bison Population</b>	
	<b>in the Białowieża Forest . . . . .</b>	<b>89</b>
10.1	The Population in the Western (Polish) Part of the Forest . . . . .	90
10.1.1	Year of Establishment, Origins of Bison and Founder Group . . . . .	90
10.1.2	Population Dynamics . . . . .	92
10.1.3	Mortality . . . . .	94
10.1.4	Selective Culling of Bison and Transfers Away . . . . .	101
10.1.5	Population Structure by Age and Sex . . . . .	102
10.2	The Population in the Eastern (Belarussian) Part of the Forest . . . . .	105
10.2.1	Year of Establishment, Origins of Bison and Founder Group . . . . .	105
10.2.2	Population Dynamics . . . . .	106
<b>11</b>	<b>The Rhythm to Bison Activity . . . . .</b>	<b>111</b>
11.1	The Annual Biological Cycle of the Bison . . . . .	111
11.2	The 24-Hour Rhythm to Activity . . . . .	113
<b>12</b>	<b>Reproduction . . . . .</b>	<b>119</b>
12.1	Sexual Maturity and Fertility . . . . .	119
12.2	The Rutting Period . . . . .	123
12.3	Sexual Behaviour . . . . .	125
12.4	Fights Between Bulls . . . . .	127
12.5	Pregnancy and Parturition . . . . .	132
12.6	The Sex Ratio at Birth . . . . .	134

- 13 Behaviour Patterns** . . . . . 141
  - 13.1 Feeding Behaviour . . . . . 141
  - 13.2 Excretion . . . . . 142
  - 13.3 Behaviours Associated with Rest . . . . . 142
  - 13.4 The Behaviour of Bison on the Move . . . . . 143
  - 13.5 Antagonistic Behaviour . . . . . 145
  - 13.6 Relations Between Mother and Calf . . . . . 146
  - 13.7 Play Behaviour . . . . . 150
  - 13.8 Grooming Behaviour . . . . . 151
  - 13.9 Vocalisation . . . . . 152
  - 13.10 Human–Bison Interactions. . . . . 152
  - 13.11 Interactions Between Bison and Other Wild  
or Domestic Animals . . . . . 153
  
- 14 Food and Use of the Environment** . . . . . 157
  - 14.1 Dietary Selectivity of Wild Ruminants . . . . . 157
  - 14.2 Diet Composition . . . . . 159
  - 14.3 Food Requirements . . . . . 168
  - 14.4 The Digestibility of Dietary Components . . . . . 168
  - 14.5 Habitat Use. . . . . 169
  - 14.6 The Impact of Bison on the Forest’s Natural Environment . . . . . 178
  
- 15 Social Organisation of the Population** . . . . . 181
  - 15.1 Group Composition and Size . . . . . 182
    - 15.1.1 In the Growing Season . . . . . 182
    - 15.1.2 In the Winter Season . . . . . 192
  - 15.2 Hierarchy and Leadership . . . . . 197
  
- 16 The Spatial Structure of Populations** . . . . . 199
  - 16.1 Populations Area . . . . . 199
  - 16.2 Density . . . . . 206
  - 16.3 Individual Home Ranges of Bison and Areas  
Occupied by Mixed Groups . . . . . 206
  - 16.4 Migrations and Dispersal . . . . . 211
  
- 17 Population Management** . . . . . 217
  - 17.1 The Carrying Capacity of the Environment . . . . . 217
  - 17.2 Principles of Regulating Population Sizes . . . . . 218
  - 17.3 Supplementary Feeding and Winter Refuges . . . . . 219
  - 17.4 Captures and Transport . . . . . 225
  - 17.5 Immobilisation and Marking . . . . . 227
  - 17.6 The Assessment of Trophies. . . . . 230

17.7	Determining the Age . . . . .	231
17.7.1	Size and Horn Shape . . . . .	231
17.7.2	Determining Age by Reference to the Teeth . . . . .	237
17.7.3	Cement Layers . . . . .	240
<b>18</b>	<b>The Significance of the Białowieża Bison for the Preservation and Recognition of the Species <i>Bison bonasus</i></b> . . . . .	<b>241</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Threats to the Species <i>Bison bonasus</i></b> . . . . .	<b>249</b>
19.1	Global and Local Threats . . . . .	250
19.2	Threats to the Health of Bison . . . . .	251
19.2.1	Posthitis/Balanoposthitis . . . . .	251
19.2.2	Q Fever and Lyme Disease. . . . .	259
19.2.3	Trypanosomes (Trypanosoma). . . . .	260
19.2.4	Mycoplasmosis. . . . .	260
19.2.5	Foot-and-Mouth Disease (Aphthae Epizooticae). . . . .	260
19.2.6	Tuberculosis . . . . .	261
19.2.7	Parasites of the European Bison. . . . .	262
<b>20</b>	<b>Bison as Protected Animals</b> . . . . .	<b>269</b>
20.1	The Legal Status of the European Bison in Poland . . . . .	269
20.2	The European Bison in the International Law . . . . .	270
<b>21</b>	<b>Co-operation Over the Restitution of the European Bison in the Białowieża Forest</b> . . . . .	<b>273</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>The Restitution of Bison in Captive Breeding in Poland</b> . . . . .	<b>277</b>
22.1	The First Attempts at Restitution of Bison in Poland . . . . .	277
22.2	Bison Reserves . . . . .	278
22.2.1	Pszczyna (Pless). . . . .	279
22.2.2	Smardzewice . . . . .	283
22.2.3	Niepołomice . . . . .	285
22.3	Show Enclosures . . . . .	286
22.3.1	Międzydroje . . . . .	286
22.3.2	Gołuchów . . . . .	286
22.4	Zoological Gardens . . . . .	287
<b>23</b>	<b>Restitution of Free-Ranging Populations Around the World</b> . . . . .	<b>289</b>
23.1	Introduction . . . . .	289
23.2	The Establishment and Development of Free-Ranging Populations . . . . .	290
23.3	Strategies for the Management of Bison Populations . . . . .	293
23.4	Free-Ranging Populations in Poland . . . . .	297
23.5	Free-Ranging Populations in Lithuania . . . . .	306
23.6	Free-Ranging Populations in Belarus. . . . .	308

23.7	Free-Ranging Populations in Ukraine . . . . .	311
23.8	Free-Ranging Populations in Russia . . . . .	317
23.9	Free-Ranging Populations in Slovakia. . . . .	321
<b>24</b>	<b>Hybrids Between the European Bison and Domestic Cattle. . . . .</b>	<b>323</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>The American Bison as a Close Relative of the European Bison . . . .</b>	<b>327</b>
	<b>References . . . . .</b>	<b>333</b>
	<b>Timeline . . . . .</b>	<b>357</b>
	<b>Appendices. . . . .</b>	<b>361</b>



<http://www.springer.com/978-3-642-36554-6>

European Bison

The Nature Monograph

Krasińska, M.; Krasiński, Z.A.

2013, XV, 380 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-642-36554-6