



PREFACE

Every three years, scientists, conservationists, naturalists and volunteers are used to gather to exchange knowledge and experience on research and conservation of dormice (Rodentia: Gliridae). In 2022, The Habitat Foundation and the National Museum of Natural History – Sofia (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences) organised the Eleventh International Dormouse Conference (IDC11). The event took place on 9–13 May 2022 in Svilengrad, Bulgaria, in the centre of the geographical range of the Roach's mouse-tailed dormouse *Myomimus roachi*.

The conference had to be postponed twice due to the COVID–19 pandemic. We did not want an online conference. The purpose of conferences is to bring people together and to listen about new findings in research, conservation and policy. However, especially to see and chat with each other during the breaks, evening events and excursions is not less important. That is when you hear the details of the work done and where new collaborations start.

Eventually, we also offered the possibility to attend the conference online. Altogether, about 100 people attended the conference, in-person and virtual. They came from 26 countries. They listened to 44 oral presentations, visited 29 posters and admired many drawings and paintings of dormice made by members of the Society of Animalists, Florists and Scientific Illustrators (DAFNI). Before, during and after the conference, they could attend excursions. The conference started with a guided tour of the National Museum of Natural History in Sofia. During the conference, an excursion took the participants to the habitat of Roach's mouse-tailed dormouse and the attendees had the chance to see this elusive species in its habitat. Later that day, we visited a colony

of the European souslik *Spermophilus citellus*, another threatened European mammal species. The post-conference tour took the participants to one of Bulgaria's most important archaeological sites, the ancient city of Perperikon, and to the Eastern Rhodopes, one of the Bulgarian biodiversity hotspots. Being in Bulgaria and observing the diversity in landscapes and species made the attendees aware of the importance of Eastern Europe and the Balkans for conserving Europe's biodiversity.

Abstracts of the presentations and posters are published on the ARPHA platform of Pensoft Publishers (one of the sponsors of the conference) and are available here: https://aca.pensoft.net/browse_user_collection_documents.php?collection_id=212&journal_name=aca

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