

ABSTRACT

This thesis deals with the perception of non-native vertebrate species by lower secondary school pupils. The research was aimed at finding out how pupils perceive non-native species, what attitudes they have towards their presence and how various factors such as age, gender interest in science and viewing science content influence their views. The study consists of two parts: theoretical and practical. The theoretical part contains an overview of basic terms and legislative frameworks related to non-native and invasive species, including the characteristics of selected vertebrate species found in the Czech Republic. The practical part includes the analysis of the results of a questionnaire survey among pupils, in which their knowledge, opinions and attitudes towards non-native vertebrate species were investigated. The results show that the students have a limited knowledge of non-native species, which is not influenced in any way by the attended class. With the exception of the house mouse, rat and common rat, opinions on species management were influenced by whether students were provided with more detailed information about the impact of the given species on the environment and humans or not.