

Contact Information

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Personal Information

Date of Birth: April 28, 1966

Place of Birth: Kalamata (Greece)

Family situation: Married, three children

Professional situation

- Professor at the University of Thessaly, Department of Forestry, Wood Sciences and Design, 11-13 V. Griva str, GR 431 00, Karditsa, Greece. Tel., fax: +30 24410 – 64710
- Director of Laboratory of Wildlife Management

Education

Diplomas

- 2002: PhD in Wildlife Ecology and Management. Thesis: “Ecology and Conservation of Black-crowned Night-heron [*Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax* (L., 1758)] at the Kerkini Reservoir, Macedonia, Greece” carried out and defended at the Department of Range & Wildlife Management, School of Forestry & Natural Environment, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece.
- 1992: University Diploma in Forestry and Natural Environment (School of Forestry & Natural Environment, Department of Range & Wildlife Management, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece).

Qualifications

- Handy with field and laboratory techniques on wildlife ecology and wildlife management
- Traveled, lectured and carried out research all over Greece
- Coordinator of several research subjects such as: Census of birds species in several areas all over Greece, Ecology and management of birds species in Northern Greece, migration of turdidae (*Turdus sp.*), migration of wildfowl in several wetlands, management of corvidae in suburban areas etc.
- Author of many publications in scientific Journals and books
- Author of articles in several Greek nature-conservation popularized periodicals

- Author and editor of nature conservation brochures, leaflets and booklets in Greece
- Member of several Greek and International societies
- Wildlife Photographer
- Former book publisher and editor of books on wildlife and hunting management.

Main scientific interests

- Ecology and management of birds and mammals in Mediterranean region
- Ecology and Management of Wildlife diseases
- Management of Mediterranean-type ecosystems, marginal lands, as well as artificial wetlands (e.g. saltworks and saline ecosystems)
- Species and ecosystem conservation
- Management of game species and hunting

Publications in Scientific Journals

1. Sofia, M, A. Giannakopoulos, I. Giantsis, A. Touloudi, P. Birtsas, K. Papageorgiou, Z. Athanasakopoulou, D. C. Chatzopoulos, G. Vrioni, D. Galamatis, V. Diamantopoulos, S. Mpellou, E. Petridou, S. K. Kritas, M. Palli, G. Georgakopoulos, V. Spyrou, A. Tsakris, A. Chaskopoulou, and C. Billinis (accepted for publication). West Nile Virus occurrence and ecological niche modeling in wild bird species and mosquito vectors; an active surveillance program in the Peloponnese Region of Greece. *Microorganisms*
2. Touloudi, A., G. Valiakos, S. Cawthraw, P. Kostoulas, C. Gortázar, M. Boadella, A. Giannakopoulos, P. Birtsas, M. Sofia, L. Athanasiou, M. Satra, Z. Athanasakopoulou, M. Kantere, V. Spyrou, L. Petrovska, and C. Billinis. (2021). Development of a multiplex bead assay for simultaneous serodiagnosis of antibodies against *Mycobacterium bovis*, *Brucella suis* and *Trichinella spiralis* in wild boar. *Microorganisms* 2021, 9, 904. <https://doi.org/10.3390/microorganisms9050904>
3. Tsokana, N.K., C. Sokos, A. Giannakopoulos, P. Birtsas, G. Valiakos, V. Spyrou, L. V. Athanasiou, A. Rodi Burriel, and T, C. Billinis. (2020). European Brown hare (*Lepus europaeus*) as a source of emerging and re-emerging pathogens of Public Health importance: A review. *Vet Med Sci.* 2020;00:1–15. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/vms3.248>
4. Tsokana, N.K., C. Sokos, A. Giannakopoulos, P. Birtsas, L. Athanasiou, G. Valiakos, M. Sofia, D. Chatzopoulos, Z. Athanasakopoulou, M. Kantere, V. Spyrou, A. Rodi Burriel, and C. Billinis. (2020). Investigation of the Role of the European Brown Hare in the Epidemiology of Bacterial Zoonotic Pathogens: A Serological and Molecular Survey in Greece. *Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases*, Vol. 20, No. 4. doi.org/10.1089/vbz.2019.2506
5. Giannoulis, T., D. Plageras, C. Stamatis, E. Chatzivagia, A. Tsipourlianos, P. Birtsas, C. Billinis, F. Suchentrunk and Z. Mamuris. (2019). Islands and hybrid zones: combining the knowledge

from “Natural Laboratories” to explain phylogeographic patterns of the European brown hare. BMC Evolutionary Biology 19:17
<https://bmcevolbiol.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12862-019-1354-y>

6. Tsokana, N.K., C. Sokos, A. Giannakopoulos, P. Birtsas, L. V. Athanasiou, G. Valiakos, M. Sofia, D. Chatzopoulos, M. Kantere, V. Spyrou, A. R. Burriel, and C. Billinis. (2019). Serological and molecular investigation of selected parasitic pathogens in European brown hare (*Lepus europaeus*) in Greece: inferring the ecological niche of *Toxoplasma gondii* and *Leishmania infantum* in hares. *Parasitology Research*, 118, pp 2715–2721.
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00436-019-06388-6>
7. Sokos, C., A. Touloudi, A. Giannakopoulos, K. G. Papaspyropoulos, C. N. Tsokana, P. Birtsas, and C. Billinis. (2018). Population density, roads and altitude influences on spatial distribution of hares positive to EBHS. *Basic and Applied Ecology*. Vol. 31: 82–91
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1439179117303985?via%3Dihub>
8. Sokos, C., N. Kollaris, K. G. Papaspyropoulos, K. Poirazidis and P. Birtsas. (2018). Frequency of abnormalities in wildlife species: is there a relation with their ecology?, *Zoology and Ecology*, DOI: 10.1080/21658005.2018.1537905. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21658005.2018.1537905>
9. Sokos, C. K., P. K. Birtsas, P.C. Platis, and K.G. Papaspyropoulos. (2016). Weather influence on the abundance of bird species wintering in three Mediterranean ecosystems. *Folia Zoologica*. 65(3): 200 – 207. <http://www.ivb.cz/folia-zoologica-archive.html?vol=65&no=3>
10. Sokos, C.K., A. Giannakopoulos, K. G. Papaspyropoulos, A. Touloudi, P. K. Birtsas, V. Spyrou, G. Valiakos, C. Tsokana, A. I. Sfougaris, and C. Billinis. (2016). Hare harvest and EBHS virus prevalence in differently populated Mediterranean ecotopes. *European Journal of Wildlife Research*. 62(6): pp 695-700. DOI 10.1007/s10344-016-1047-4
<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10344-016-1047-4>
11. Giannakopoulos, A., G. Valiakos, K. Papaspyropoulos, G. Dougas, L.M., K.E., G.C. Fthenakis, M.R. Hutchings, D. Kaimaras, C.N. Tsokana, P. Iliadou, V. Spyrou, M., P. Birtsas, P. Kostoglou, C. Sokos, S. Doudounakis, L. Yon, D. Hannant, M. Artois, S. Tsiodras, C. Hadjichristodoulou, and C. Billinis. (2016). Rabies outbreak in Greece during 2012–2014: use of Geographical Information System for analysis, risk assessment and control. *Epidemiology and Infection*, vol. 20: 1-12
<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?fromPage=online&aid=10416547&fileId=S0950268816001527>
12. Vasileiou, N.G.C., G.C. Fthenakis, G.S. Amiridis, L.V. Athanasiou, P. Birtsas, D.C. Chatzopoulos, T.M. Chouzouris, A. Giannakopoulos, K.S. Ioannidi, S.N. Kalonaki, A.I. Katsafadou, C.S. Kyriakis, V.S. Mavrogianni, E. Papadopoulos, V. Spyrou, G. Valiakos, A.P. Venianaki, and C. Billinis. (2016). Experiences from the 2014 outbreak of bluetongue in Greece. *Small Ruminant Research*, vol 142: 61-68.
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0921448816300359>

13. Sokos, K. C., P.K. Birtsas, K.G. Papaspyropoulos, and Carlos Sánchez-García. (2016). Professionalism in Wildlife Management: The Case of Galliforms Releases in Hellas. *Open Journal of Forestry* vol 6: pp 51-58. http://file.scirp.org/pdf/OJF_2016020414494820.pdf.
14. Papaspyropoulos, G.K., D. Karamanolis, C.K. Sokos, and P.K. Birtsas. (2016). Enhancing sustainability in forestry using Material Flow Cost Accounting. *Open Journal of Forestry* vol 6: pp324-336. http://file.scirp.org/pdf/OJF_2016081111430934.pdf
15. Sokos C., P. Birtsas, K.G. Papaspyropoulos, E. Tsachalidis, A. Giannakopoulos, C. Milis, V. A. Labrini, K. Manolakou, V. Spyrou, C. Iakovakis, and C. Billinis. (2016). Mammals and habitat disturbance: the case of brown hare and wildfire. *Current Zoology* 62 (5): 421 - 430. <http://cz.oxfordjournals.org/content/czoolo/62/5/421.full.pdf>
16. Sokos C., A. Touloudi, C. Iakovakis, K. Papaspyropoulos, A. Giannakopoulos, P. Birtsas, V. Spyrou, E. Theodosiadou, I. Valasi, A. Sfougaris, and C. Billinis. (2016). Hare demography, physiology and European Brown Hare Syndrome virus infection: Is there an association for the brown hare? *Journal of Zoology* 298 (2): 150-157. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jzo.12299/pdf>
17. Tsokana C.N., Sokos C., Giannakopoulos A., Mamuris Z., Birtsas P., Papaspyropoulos K., Valiakos G., Spyrou V., Lefkaditis M., Chatzopoulos D.C., Kantere M., Manolakou K., Touloudi A., Rodi Burriel A., Ferroglio E., Hadjichristodoulou C., Billinis C. (2016). First evidence of *Leishmania* infection in European Brown Hare (*Lepus europaeus*) in Greece, GIS analysis and phylogenetic position within the *Leishmania* spp.. *Parasitology Research* 15(1):313-321. <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00436-015-4749-8>
18. Touloudi, A., G. Valiakos, L. V. Athanasiou, P. Birtsas, A. Giannakopoulos, K. Papaspyropoulos, C. Kalaitzis, C. Sokos, C. N. Tsokana, V. Spyrou, L. Petrovska, and C. Billinis. (2015). A serosurvey for selected pathogens in Greek European wild boar. *Veterinary Record Open* 2015;2:e000077. doi:10.1136/vetreco-2014-000077. <http://vetrecordopen.bmj.com/content/2/2/e000077.full.pdf+html>
19. Chatzopoulos D., G. Valiakos, A. Giannakopoulos, P. Birtsas, C. Sokos, N. Vasileiou, K. Papaspyropoulos, C. Tsokana, V. Spyrou, G. Fthenakis, and C. Billinis C. (2015). Bluetongue Virus in Wild Ruminants in Europe: Concerns and Facts with a brief reference to bluetongue in cervids in Greece during the 2014 outbreak. *Small Ruminant Research* 128: 79-87. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S092144881500111X>
20. Sokos C., K.G. Papaspyropoulos, P. Birtsas, A. Giannakopoulos, and C. Billinis. (2015). Do weather and moon have any influence on spotlighting mammals? The case of hare in a Mediterranean ecosystem. *Applied Ecology & Environmental Research* 13(4): 925-933. http://aloki.hu/pdf/1304_925933.pdf
21. Sokos C., P. Birtsas, K. Papaspyropoulos, A. Giannakopoulos, L. Athanasiou, K. Manolakou, V. Spyrou, and C. Billinis. (2015). Conservation Considerations for a Management Measure: An

- Integrated Approach to Hare Rearing and Release. *Environmental Management* 55(1): 19-30.
<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00267-014-0388-6#page-1>
22. Papaspyropoulos, K., C. K. Sokos, and P. K. Birtsas (2015). The impacts of a wildfire on hunting demand: a case study of a Mediterranean ecosystem. *iForest – Biogeosciences and Forestry*. Vol 8: pp 95-100. DOI: 10.3832/ifor0799-007
<http://www.sisef.it/iforest/contents/?id=ifor0799-007>
 23. Spyrou, V., C. Stamatis, P. Birtsas, V. Psychas, C. Billinis, and Z. Mamuris. (2014). Evidence for European brown hare syndrome virus introduction with translocated brown hares (*Lepus europaeus*): implications for management of restocking operations. *Wildlife Research* 40(7) 545-551. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1071/WR12152>
 24. Sokos, C., N. Peterson, P. Birtsas, and N. Hasanagas. (2014). Insights for contemporary hunting from ancient hellenic culture. *Wildlife Society Bulletin*, 38 (3), pages 451–457.
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/wsb.443/full>
 25. Valiakos, G., K. Papaspyropoulos, A. Giannakopoulos, P. Birtsas, S. Tsiodras, M. R. Hutchings, V. Spyrou, D. Pervanidou, L. V. Athanasiou, N. Papadopoulos, C. Tsokana, A. Baka, K. Manolakou, D. Chatzopoulos, M. Artois, L. Yon, D. Hannant, L. Petrovska, C. Hadjichristodoulou, and C. Billinis. (2014). Use of Wild Bird Surveillance, Human Case Data and GIS Spatial Analysis for Predicting Spatial Distributions of West Nile Virus in Greece. *PLOS ONE*, 9 (5). DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0096935.
<http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0096935>
 26. Sokos, K. C., A. P. Mamolos, K. L. Kalburtji, and P. K. Birtsas. (2013). Farming and wildlife in Mediterranean agroecosystems. *Journal for Nature Conservation*, 21, pp 81-92.
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1617138112001100>
 27. Sokos C., P. Birtsas, J. Connelly and K. Papaspyropoulos. (2013). Hunting of Migratory birds: hunting disturbance intolerant or harvest tolerant? *Wildlife Biology*. Vol 19, Issue 2, Pages 113-125. <http://www.bioone.org/doi/abs/10.2981/12-032>
 28. Birtsas, P., C. Sokos, K. Papaspyropoulos, T. Batselas, G. Valiakos, and C. Billinis. (2013). Abiotic factors and autumn phenology of Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola* Linnaeus, 1758, Chardadriiformes: Scolopacidae) in a Mediterranean area. *Italian Journal of Zoology* Vol 80, Issue 3, Pp 392-401.
http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/11250003.2013.805827#Ukr0_Vt25-c
 29. Billinis, C., L. V. Athanasiou, G. Valiakos, Z. Mamuris, P. Birtsas, and V. Spyrou. (2013). Phylogenetic analysis of canine distemper viruses from red foxes, Greece. *Veterinary Record* vol 173 (8). doi:10.1136/vr.101618
<http://veterinaryrecord.bmj.com/content/173/8/194.1>
 30. Iacovakis, C., Z. Mamuris, K. A. Moutou, A. Touloudi, A. S. Hammer, G. Valiakos, T. Giannoulis, C. Stamatis, V. Spyrou, L. V. Athanasiou, M. Kantere, T. Asferg, A. Giannakopoulos, C. M. Salomonsen, D. Bogdanos, P. Birtsas, L. Petrovska, D. Hannant, C.

- Billinis. (2013). Polarisation of Major Histocompatibility Complex II Host Genotype with Pathogenesis of European Brown Hare Syndrome Virus. *Plos One* Vol 8, Issue 9. <http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0074360>
31. Papaspyropoulos, K. G., V. Blioumis, A. S. Christodoulou, P. K. Birtsas and K.E. Skordas (2012). Challenges in implementing environmental management accounting tools: The case of a Non-profit forestry Organization. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 29-30 pp 132-143, Available online http://pdn.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=MiailImageURL&_cid=271750&_user=164384&_pii=S0959652612000649&_check=y&_origin=search&_zone=rslt_list_item&_coverDate=2012-02-13&wchp=dGLbVIS-zSkWb&md5=ba181a89f304bf3963c00d5ee6ec7e43/1-s2.0-S0959652612000649-main.pdf
 32. Papaspyropoulos, K. G., V. Blioumis, A. S. Christodoulou, P. K. Birtsas, and K. E. Skordas. (2012). The environmental cost of the associations of Hunting Federation of Macedonia – Thrace. *Τετράδια Ανάλυσης Δεδομένων – Data Analysis Bulletin* (ISSN 1109-4192), pp 34-44.
 33. Papaspyropoulos, K. G., C. K. Sokos, V. Telidis, and P.K. Birtsas. (2012). Wild birds and Macedonia International Airport: a risk analysis for possible bird strikes on aircrafts. *Data Analysis Bulletin* 13/12, pp 127-136.
 34. Valiakos, G, A. Touloudi, L.V. Athanasiou, A. Giannakopoulos, C. Iacovakis, P. Birtsas, V. Spyrou, Z. Dalabiras, L. Petrovska, and C. Billinis. (2012). Exposure of Eurasian magpies and turtle doves to West Nile virus during a major human outbreak, Greece, 2011. *European Journal of Wildlife Research* 58: 749-753 <http://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007%2Fs10344-011-0603-1>
 35. Birtsas, P., C. Sokos, and S. Exadacctylos (2012). Carnivores in burned and adjacent unburned areas in a Mediterranean ecosystem. *Mammalia* 76(3), pp 407-415. <http://www.degruyter.com/view/j/mamm.2012.76.issue-4/mammalia-2011-0070/mammalia-2011-0070.xml>
 36. Valiakos, G., A. Touloudi, L. V. Athanasiou, A. Giannakopoulos, C. Iacovakis, P. Birtsas, V. Spyrou, Z. Dalabiras, L. Petrovska and C. Billinis. (2012). Serological and Molecular Investigation into the Role of Wild Birds in the Epidemiology of West Nile Virus in Greece. *Virology Journal*, 9:266 <http://www.virologyj.com/content/pdf/1743-422X-9-266.pdf>
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 38. Alivizatos, H., S. Kazantzidis, and P. Birtsas. (2011). Winter diet of the Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginus* (Aves, Accipitriformes) in the Evros Delta (Greece). *Scientific Annals of the Danube Delta Institute* (ISSN-L: 1842 - 614X) Vol. 17: 11 – 14
 39. Valiakos G, A. Touloudi, C. Iacovakis, L. Athanasiou, P. Birtsas, V. Spyrou V, and C. Billinis. (2011). Molecular detection and phylogenetic analysis of West Nile virus lineage 2 in

- sedentary wild birds (Eurasian magpie), Greece, 2010. Euro Surveillance Vol. 16 (18). Available online: <http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=19862>
40. Hasanagas, N. D., A. D. Styliadis, F. I. Papadopoulou, and P. K. Birtsas. (2010). Land Policy & Socio- spatial impacts in a Burned Forest: The Case of Chalkidiki, Greece (2006). RevCAD Journal of Geodesy & Cadastre, Vol 10, pp. 101 – 112. http://www.uab.ro/geocad/upload/19_119_Paper13_RevCAD10_2010.pdf
 41. Sokos, K. C., P. K. Birtsas, and E. P. Tsachalidis. (2008). The aims of Galliformes release and choice of techniques. Wildlife Biology 14 (4): 412-422 <http://www.bioone.org/doi/pdf/10.2981/0909-6396-14.4.412>
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Publications in International Conference Proceedings

1. Papaspyropoulos, K. G., **P. K. Birtsas**, and K. E. Skordas (2011). **An ethical issue on carbon reporting evidence from forestry related organizations**. Proceedings of EMAN-EU 2011 Conference “Accounting for climate change – what and how to measure”. Budapest – Hungary, 24-25/01/2011. (ISBN: 978-963-503-432-1), pp. 40 – 46
2. **Birtsas, P**, C. Sokos, A. Papavasiliou, and M. Giannakou. (2011). **Demographic and energetic parameters of Blackbird Turdus merula in an area of Central Greece**. XXXth International Union of Game Biologist Congress, 5th – 9th September 2011, Barcelona, Spain. Pp. 73 - 75.
3. Giapis, A.I., **P. Birtsas**, M. Skarafiga. (2011). **Avian mortality due to collisions at wind farms in Greece. Preliminary results**. XXXth International Union of Game Biologist Congress, 5th – 9th September 2011, Barcelona, Spain. Pp. 91 – 94.
4. Chondros, I., **P.K. Birtsas**, and A. Giannakopoulos (2011). **Distribution and population status of the Balkan Chamois in Southern Pindos Mountain range Greece**. XXXth International Union of Game Biologist Congress, 5th – 9th September 2011, Barcelona, Spain. Pp. 103 - 105.

5. Hasanagas, N. D., K. G. Papaspyropoulos, and **P. K. Birtsas** (2009). **Determinants of travelling distance for game hunting tourism**. Proceedings of 4th International Scientific Conference “Planning for the Future - Learning from the Past: Contemporary Developments in Tourism, Travel & Hospitality” Rhodes, Greece.
6. Papaspyropoulos, K.G., N. Hasanagas, and **P.K. Birtsas** (2009). **Sustainable game hunting tourism: the case of Thessaloniki’s hunters**. Proceedings of 4th International Scientific Conference “Planning for the Future - Learning from the Past: Contemporary Developments in Tourism, Travel & Hospitality” Rhodes, Greece. http://www.panida.gr/site/wp-content/uploads/Sustainable_hunting_tourism.pdf
7. Papaspyropoulos, K.G., V. Blioumis, A. S. Christodoulou, **P. K. Birtsas**, and K. E. Skordas (2009). **Environmental reporting and environmental cost accounting in a state controlled, nonprofit Greek organization**. Proceedings of the 1st International Conference on Sustainable Management of Public and Not For Profit Organisations (Prof. James Guthrie eds), 2009, July 1-3, University of Bologna, Italy: SMOG, 2009. <http://sydney.edu.au/business/research/smog/conference>
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9. Vrahnakis, M. S., M. Kadroudi, E. Kyriazi, D. Vasilakis, Y. Kazoglou, and **P. Birtsas** (2009). **Variation of structural and functional characteristics of grasslands in the foraging areas of the Eurasian black vulture (*Aegypius monachus* L.)**. Proceedings of the 15th of the European Grassland Federation Symposium (ISBN 978-80-86908-15-1), vol. 14, pp 269-272. Brno, Czech Republic, 7-9 September
10. Sokos, C. K., N. D. Hasanagas, K. G. Papaspyropoulos, and **P. K. Birtsas**, (2009). **Hunting management and hunting – related values**. Proceedings of 2nd Conference on Environmental Management, Engineering, Planning and Economics (CEMEPE & SECOTOX Conference). In Kungolos, A. Aravossis, K., Karagianidis, A., Samaras, P. (eds) (ISBN:978-960-6865-09-1). University of Thessaly and National Technical University of Athens., pp 2103-2106
11. Hasanagas, N. D., **P. K. Birtsas**, C. K. Sokos, and K. G. Papaspyropoulos, (2009). **Hunting engagement and attitude to hunting management strategies**. Proceedings of 2nd Conference on Environmental Management, Engineering, Planning and Economics (CEMEPE & SECOTOX Conference). In Kungolos, A. Aravossis, K., Karagianidis, A., Samaras, P. (eds) (ISBN:978-960-6865-09-1). University of Thessaly and National Technical University of Athens. pp 2097-2101
12. Tsaxalidis, E., A. Giannakopoulos and **P. Birtsas** (2008). **Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*) Distribution and habitat use in Grevena – Western Macedonia – Greece**. Proceedings of 7th International

Symposium on Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*) and on Sub-order *Suiformes*, (ISBN: 978-963-9883-14-7) Sopron (Hungary), August 28-30, pp. 115-117

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