

**MORPHOMETRIC ANALYSIS ON GREEK POPULATIONS OF THE
UNDERGROUND THOMAS' VOLE *MICROTUS (TERRICOLA)*
THOMASI (MAMMALIA: RODENTIA)**

Maria Kamilari, Despoina Gatou, Stella Fraguedakis–Tsolis & Basil Chondropoulos

Section of Animal Biology, Dept. of Biology, University of Patras, GR-265 00, Greece. Email: mkamilari@upatras.gr

The taxonomy of the Balkan endemic Thomas' vole troubled systematists for several decades and morphological, biochemical and karyological approaches have been employed for its clarification. What all the previous studies undoubtedly revealed was that Thomas' vole is a highly polymorphic species. In the present work we applied morphometric methods in order to study the patterns of variation in certain morphological characters of these rodents. Specifically, we applied twenty two (22) landmarks on the dorsal side of the skull, sixteen (16) landmarks on the left half of the mandible and fourteen (14) landmarks on the first left upper molar using specimens from several localities in Greece. Geometric morphometrics and partial least squares analyses are used to investigate possible geographical and/or ecological signals in the shape of these three morphological skeletal materials used for this species.