

ЗАМЕТКА

The Great Jerboa, *Allactaga major* (Rodentia, Dipodidae), in the Sandy Terraces of the Seversky Donets River in Ukraine [Большой тушканчик, *Allactaga major* (Rodentia, Dipodidae), на песчаных террасах Северского Донца в Украине]. — The left bank of the Seversky Donets has large sandy terraces with area around 300 thousand hectares in Ukraine. The natural vegetation is very fragmented and consists of spots of psammophyte grasses (*Artemisia*, *Calamagrostis*, *Stipa* etc.), small patches of trees (*Betula*, *Populus*), bushes (*Salix*), and open sands. Currently most of these terraces are transformed to artificial forests, settlements, roads, ponds and sand quarries. Only about 37 thousand hectares are preserved in more or less pristine state (Vasyliuk et al., 2013). Some of the largest areas of these sandy steppes are located in Lugansk oblast, where in 2008 the Trokhizbenskiy steppe reserve was created with a total area of 3281 hectares. The great jerboa is a typical steppe dweller but its density and distribution suffered a significant decline, thereafter the species was included in the Red book of Ukraine. The great jerboa was never reported from the terraces of the Seversky Donets river in Ukraine. Two new localities were found during the observations of these steppes in 2006–2013. On the 25.07.2010 two active burrows were spotted near the village Kapitanove of Novoaidar district (48°50.620' N, 38°45.229' E and 48°50.335' N, 38°45.485' E). On the 1.06.2013 another burrow was found in the Trokhizbeskiy steppe reserve in Slovanoserbsk district (48°47.208' N, 38°55.517' E). Fresh identifiable footprints were observed at the entrance of the burrow. All burrows were located near sand-roads with low foliage cover. Although the distance between the two localities was 13.5 km, the current connection was dubious, as the area between them was covered with artificial forests and ploughed lands. — **M. Rusin** (Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology, NAS of Ukraine, Kyiv).