

BATS OF THE VOLGA REGION AND ITS BORDERING REGIONS: FAUNA, SYSTEMATICS, AND ECOLOGY

Founded in 1993.

*Head of the research group: **Vladimir Yuryevich ILYIN**, Doctor of Biological Sciences, Professor.*

V. Yu. ILYIN is an Honoured Worker of Higher Vocational Education of the Russian Federation. He has been awarded an Honorary Diploma of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation.

Members of the research group: **D. G. Smirnov**, Doctor of Biological Sciences, Associate Professor; N. M. Kurmaeva, PhD in Biology, Associate Professor; V. A. Bezrukov, PhD Student.

The group's researchers are also members of the Theriological Society of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The group's head, **V. Yu. ILYIN**, is a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), based in Switzerland.

The research group's main research areas are as follows:

1. Chiropterology.
2. Ecology of Bats.

The main research works of the group are regularly published in journals indexed in Web of Science, Scopus, and Russian Science Citation Index databases.

In 2015-2017, the research group's members conducted research as part of a project funded by the Russian Foundation for Basic Research in the amount of 1.43 million rubles as well as research within the framework of contractual works with funding amounting to 260 thousand rubles. The group has signed contracts on research cooperation with the Zhiguli Nature Reserve and the Astrakhan Nature Reserve.

The research group has supervised and successfully defended 5 PhD dissertations and a Doctor of Science dissertation.