

Internet trade in Polish endangered species of butterflies, beetles and molluscs

Anna M. Lipińska and Maria J. Gołąb

Institute of Nature Conservation, Polish Academy of Science
Mickiewicza 33, 31-120 Kraków, Poland, e-mail: lipinska@iop.krakow.pl

Abstract

The article is based on an analysis of Internet trade, with the aim of detecting relationships between the availability of a given species threatened with extinction via the Internet as well as trade offers. The species of butterflies, beetles and molluscs, listed in Polish Red Book of Animals were analysed. For species threatened in Poland, the level of risk was not related to its 'popularity'; and also the status of threatened species did not influence its price and demand. However, in the case of butterflies the price was positively correlated with the specimen developmental stage. The highest number of butterflies and beetles for sale was found in Russia, and for molluscs in Belgium. The most popular in the Internet were butterflies: *Parnassius apollo*, *Iphiclides podalirius*, *Lycaena dispar*; beetles: *Lucanus cervus*, *Buprestis splendens*, *Rosalia alpina*, and molluscs: *Margaritifera margaritifera*, *Unio crassus*, and *Anodonta cygnea*. Most of the trade offers were related to: *Parnassius mnemosyne*, *Lycaena dispar*, *Lucanus cervus*, and *Cochlodina costata*.

Key words

Internet trade, Polish Red Data Book of Animals, IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, flagship species