



**JAPANESE SIKA DEER**  
**MACEDONIA, Tikves Lake**  
**NOVEMBER 2014**  
**MECHISLAV KLIMOVICH**



**SILVER AWARD**  
**100 1/8**

Ciervo sika Japones (Sp).

**DESCRIPTION** (male) Shoulder height about 31 inches (79 cm). Weight about 105 pounds (48 kg). Females are smaller. One of the smaller races of sika deer. Antlers as long as 28-3/8 inches (72.1 cm) have been recorded from Japan (Rowland Ward, 1913), though it is not known where in Japan. Antlers of 16-22 inches (40.6-55.9 cm) are more usual. The summer coat is reddish-brown with many white spots, changing to dark brown (which can appear black at a distance) without spots in winter. The sharply defined white rump patch is broken by a dark, narrow tail stripe.

**DISTRIBUTION** Free ranging in parts of Scotland, Ireland, England, France, Denmark, Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, and perhaps elsewhere. Also kept in fenced game parks in many European countries.

**REMARKS** As stated earlier, we cannot be entirely certain of the racial purity of Japanese sika deer in Europe. However, because of their much smaller bodies and antlers, and their distinctive coloration, we think it is reasonable to treat them as such in the Record Book.

Somewhat larger than the Alpine chamois, with longer horns.

**DISTRIBUTION**

Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, and various parts of the former Yugoslavia including Croatia, Bosnia &

Herzegovina, Serbia, Voivodina, Montenegro, Kosovo, and Macedonia (but not in Slovenia, which has only Alpine chamois).



Indigenous populations of *balcanica* are found in the central region of Bosnia & Herzegovina, and in southwestern Kosovo near the border with Albania. There have also been introductions of *balcanica* in parts of Bosnia & Herzegovina, and in parts of Croatia and Serbia where chamois had not previously occurred.

Some say that introductions of Alpine chamois (*R. r. rupicapra*) have been made in southeastern Montenegro and southwestern Kosovo close to Albania; however, others deny this. While recognizing the possibility of hybrids in these areas, we elect to treat all chamois in the former Yugoslavia (except Slovenia) as Balkan chamois and all populations as indigenous.

**STATUS** Numbers estimated at 29,000 (1981). Scarce in Greece, where it is heavily poached and subject to predation by feral dogs.