

Deryabina T.G. European Badger settlements (*Meles meles* L); dimensional characteristic, density of distribution, population of broods, use by burrowing predators // Ecosystems and radiation: aspects of existence and development. Collection of Scientific Works, dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the Polessky State Radiation-Ecological Reserve / Under the total. ed. Yu.I. Bondar. Minsk: BORBITS RNIUP "Institute of Radiology", 2013. - P. 309-332.

On a site with an area of 88.1 thousand hectares in the conditions of the Belarusian exclusion zone of the ChNPP in 2006-2012 years to find and study of the identified badger holes was carried out. Dimensional characteristics, functional purpose, biotopic distribution, brood population, use by other animals were studied. Large (more than 10 entrances), medium (3-10 entrances) and small (1-2 entrances) settlements were distinguished. The percentage of large settlements amounted to 7.3% of the total number of burrows. 70.6% of the main burrows were located in forest lands, 29.4% - in the former settlements. The population of their broods averaged 38.9%. The density of the main burrows is low - 0.23 / 1000 ha of total area. More than half of the badger holes (55.6%) had signs of using their raccoon dog and only 8.3% had a fox.