

**DER BIBER (*CASTOR FIBER*) IN DEN RHEINAUEN
ZWISCHEN FRANKENTHAL (RHEINLAND-PFALZ) UND
KARLSRUHE (BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG)**

**THE BEAVER (*CASTOR FIBER*) IN THE RHINE MEADOWS
BETWEEN FRANKENTHAL (RHINELAND-PALATINATE) AND
KARLSRUHE (BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG)**

JASMIN BEYLE & KLAUS SCHÜTZENMEISTER

SUMMARY

The beaver was once widely common in Germany until it was nearly extinct in the 19th century. After about 150 years he returns. Due to resettlement projects in Bavaria, Saarland and Alsace, the beaver resettles in Rhineland-Palatinate and in Baden-Wuerttemberg.

The section of the Rhine between Frankenthal (Rhineland-Palatinate) and Karlsruhe (Baden-Wuerttemberg) was heavily modified by the Rhine regulation, so it is unclear whether a new settlement can take place here again. A field mapping 2017 took place at the back waters of the Rhine and also isolated at lakes. Beavers could be detected on the Silbersee near Bobenheim-Roxheim, the back water at Sandhofen-Ballauf, the Bonadieshafen Mannheim and the Hördter flood plain. Single older tracks were found at the Philippsburger back water, the Lingenfelder back water near Mechtersheim and the Berghäuser back water. The colonization took place via two immigration routes. On one hand over the Neckar from Bavaria, as well as from Alsace across the Rhine. It is to be assumed that further settlements in this area will follow.

Keywords: Beaver, *Castor fiber*, Rhine meadows, resettlement, Rhineland-Palatinate, Baden-Wuerttemberg

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Der Biber (*Castor fiber*) war einst weit verbreitet in Deutschland bis er im 19. Jahrhundert nahezu ausgerottet war. Nach etwa 150 Jahren kehrt er nun zurück. Aufgrund von Wiederansiedlungsprojekten in Bayern, Saarland und dem Elsass siedelt sich der Biber wieder in Rheinland-Pfalz und in Baden-Württemberg an.