

Neomys fodiens (PENNANT, 1771)



P. Twisk

Distribution

World: Palearctic. From Britain and Arctic Scandinavia across Siberia to Lake Baikal, Far East and Sakhalin Island.

Europe: southern European border runs along the Cantabrian mountains, the Pyrénées, Alps, Abruzze and mountains of the Balkan Peninsula.

Geographic variation

In spite of fairly high levels of genetic variation between populations, only little geographic variation in morphology except for the north Spanish population, which is large in size and characterized by a dental feature. This population is recognized by most authors as a distinct subspecies *N. fodiens niethammeri* Bühler, 1963, while the British water shrew *N. f. bicolor* (Shaw, 1791) does not deserve subspecific rank.

Habitat

The most aquatic of the European shrews. All kinds of riparian and littoral habitats, such as marine shores, lakes and rivers, but also swamps, humid woodland, wet meadows and even fields in the northern parts of its range. In the south confined to mountainous areas (attaining 2500 m above sea level in the Alps) living along fast-flowing mountain brooks and small rivers, in riverine forests and reedbeds of lakes.

Water shrew

AL	-	LT	Vandeninis kirstukas
BG	Голяма водна змемеровка	LU	Waasserspëtzmaus
CZ	Rejsec vodní	LV	Ūdenscirslis
DE	Wasserspitzmaus	MK	Водна ровка
DK	Vandspidsmus	MT	-
EE	Vesimutt; Tava-vesimutt	NL	Waterspitsmuis
ES	Musgaño patiblanco	NO	Vannspissmus
FI	Vesipäästäinen	PL	Rzęsorek rzeczek
FO	-	PT	-
FR	Crossope aquatique	RO	Chițcanul-de-apă
GR	Νερομυαλίδα	RU	Водяная кутора
HR	Vodena rovka	SE	Vattennäbbmus
HU	Közönséges vízicickány	SI	Povodna rovka
IR	-	SK	Dulovnica vodná
IS	Vatnasnjáldra	TR	Su sivriburunu
IT	Toporagno acquatico	YU	Водена ровчица

Population status

Well adapted to all kinds of aquatic environment, but local populations may suffer from loss of habitat through drainage of wetlands, destruction of river banks and shortage of suitable food due to water acidification and water pollution with pesticides and fertilizers. Densities fluctuate strongly in relation to seasons and between years.

International legal & conservation status

Bern Convention, Appendix III.

Literature

Catzefflis (1984)
Spitzenberger (1990b) – review

F. Spitzenberger

