Neomys anomalus Cabrera, 1907

M. Năzăreanu

Miller's water shrew

AL	-	LT	Mažasis vandeninis kirstukas
BG	Малка водна земеровка	LU	Sumpfspëtzmaus
CZ	Rejsec černý	LV	Mazais ūdenscirslis
DE	Sumpfspitzmaus	MK	Блатна ровка
DK	Millers vandspidsmus	MT	-
EE	Soo-vesimutt	NL	Millers waterspitsmuis
ES	Musgaño de Cabrera	NO	Sumpspissmus
FI	Suovesipäästäinen	PL	Rzęsorek mniejszy
FO	-	PT	Musaranho-de-água
FR	Crossope de Miller	RO	Chiţcanul-de-mlaştină
GR	Βαλτομυγαλίδα	RU	Малая кутора
HR	Močvarna rovka	SE	Sumpnäbbmus
HU	Miller-vízicickány	SI	Močvirska rovka
IR	-	SK	Dulovnica menšia
IS	-	TR	Bataklık sivriburunu
IT	Toporagno acquatico di Miller	YU	Обадска ровчица

Similar to the water shrew *Neomys fodiens*, but generally smaller in sympatric populations. Fur less dense, fringes of stiff hair on tail and legs less well developed.

Distribution

World: continental Europe between 37° and 55°N and Asia Minor.
Europe: patchy distribution in the Mediterranean and temperate parts of Europe east to the river Don. Formerly more widespread, ranging to the North Sea in Holocene times.

Geographic variation

North to south directed clines of decreasing body size, but increasing length of tail, hind foot and skull. Five subspecies have been described from Europe, but only *N. anomalus soricoides* Ognev, 1908 from Białowieża seems to be clearly definable.

Habitat

Eutrophic riparian vegetation of still freshwater bodies, bogs and slow-flowing brooks and rivers from lowlands to 1850 m altitude. Its ecological habits seem to be strongly influenced by competition with the larger *Neomys fodiens*. Where the latter is missing, *N. anomalus* adopts aquatic habits and increases in size. In low mountains *N. anomalus* inhabits the upper reaches of rivers and keeps to shallow bodies of waters and bogs. In the Alps both species can coexist at brooks in the montane and submontane zone. When food is scarce, *N. anomalus* can also feed in terrestrial habitats.

Population status

Relict character of distribution and constant habitat loss through drainage of wetlands and destruction of riparian habitats make this species very vulnerable. Densities vary in reaction to varying competition with *N. fodiens*. In the absence of *N. fodiens* it attains high densities locally. Low water tables and drying out of riparian vegetation favour *N. anomalus*.

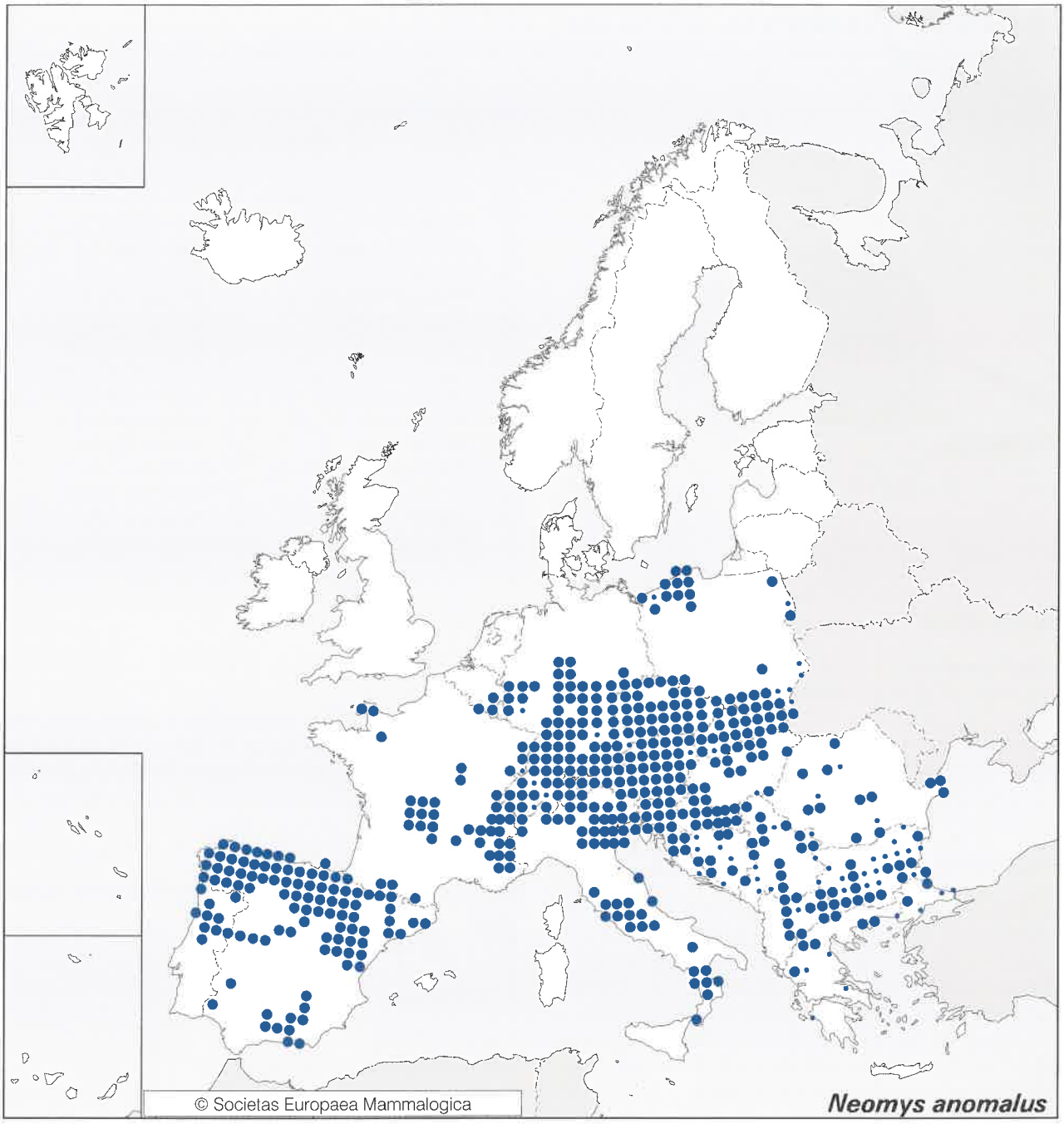
International legal & conservation status

Bern Convention, Appendix III.

Literature

Spitzenberger (1990a) – review

F. Spitzenberger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Neomys anomalus