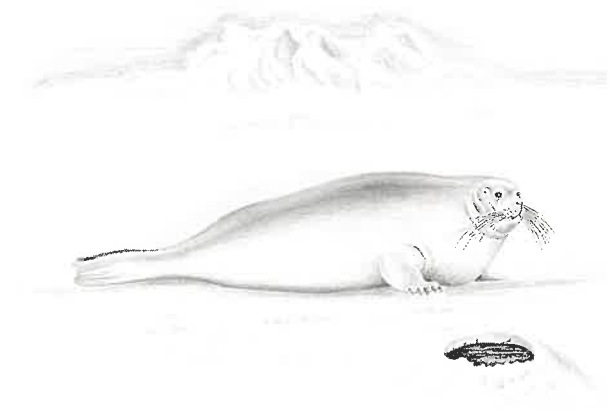


Erignathus barbatus (ERXLEBEN, 1777)



M. Názáreanu

Distribution

World: the species' distribution is circumpolar with a northern limit at 80°–85°. Arctic Ocean, northern Atlantic south to the Gulf of St Lawrence, northern Pacific as far south as Hokkaido.

Europe: the Atlantic north of Iceland and associated islands, including the Barents and White Seas. Some stragglers found on the Atlantic coasts from the Lofoten Isles down to Portugal. The distribution of breeding and haul-out areas is scattered and not well known. In prehistoric times, the distribution of the bearded seal seems to have been more southerly.

Geographic variation

Two subspecies are commonly recognized, each with its own geographical range: *E. barbatus barbatus* and *E. barbatus nauticus* (Pallas, 1811), which occurs from the Laptev Sea eastwards to the Canadian Arctic.

Habitat

The bearded seal is generally found on pack ice over relatively shallow water, where it forages on bottom-living animals including shrimps, clams, whelks and flat fish. In some areas the animals migrate in relation to the ice cover. These seals are not gregarious and are not found in very large numbers at any one location. As they are associated with drifting ice flows for much of the year, the animals move considerable distances north and south.

Bearded seal

AL	-	LT	Jūry kiškis
BG	Морски заек	LU	-
CZ	Tuleň vousatý	LV	Bārdas ronis; Jūras zaķis
DE	Bartrobbe	MK	-
DK	Remmesæl	MT	-
EE	Habehüljes	NL	Baardrob
ES	Foca barbuda	NO	Storkobbe
FI	Partahylje	PL	Foka wąsata
FO	Granarkópur	PT	Foca-barbuda
FR	Phoque barbu	RO	-
GR	-	RU	Морской заяц
HR	Brkati tuljan	SE	Storsäl
HU	Szakállas fóka	SI	Brkati tjulenj
IR	-	SK	Tuleň fúzatý
IS	Kampselur	TR	-
IT	Foca barbata	YU	-

Population status

There are no reliable estimates of the total population of this widely distributed seal species but several tens of thousands of animals may be present. The species does not seem to be directly threatened.

International legal & conservation status

Bern Convention, Appendix III.

EU Habitats & Species Directive, Annex V.

Other information

The species is of great importance to coastal indigenous peoples and animals are also caught commercially by Russian sealing vessels. Bearded seals are generally exploited for their strong hides and meat.

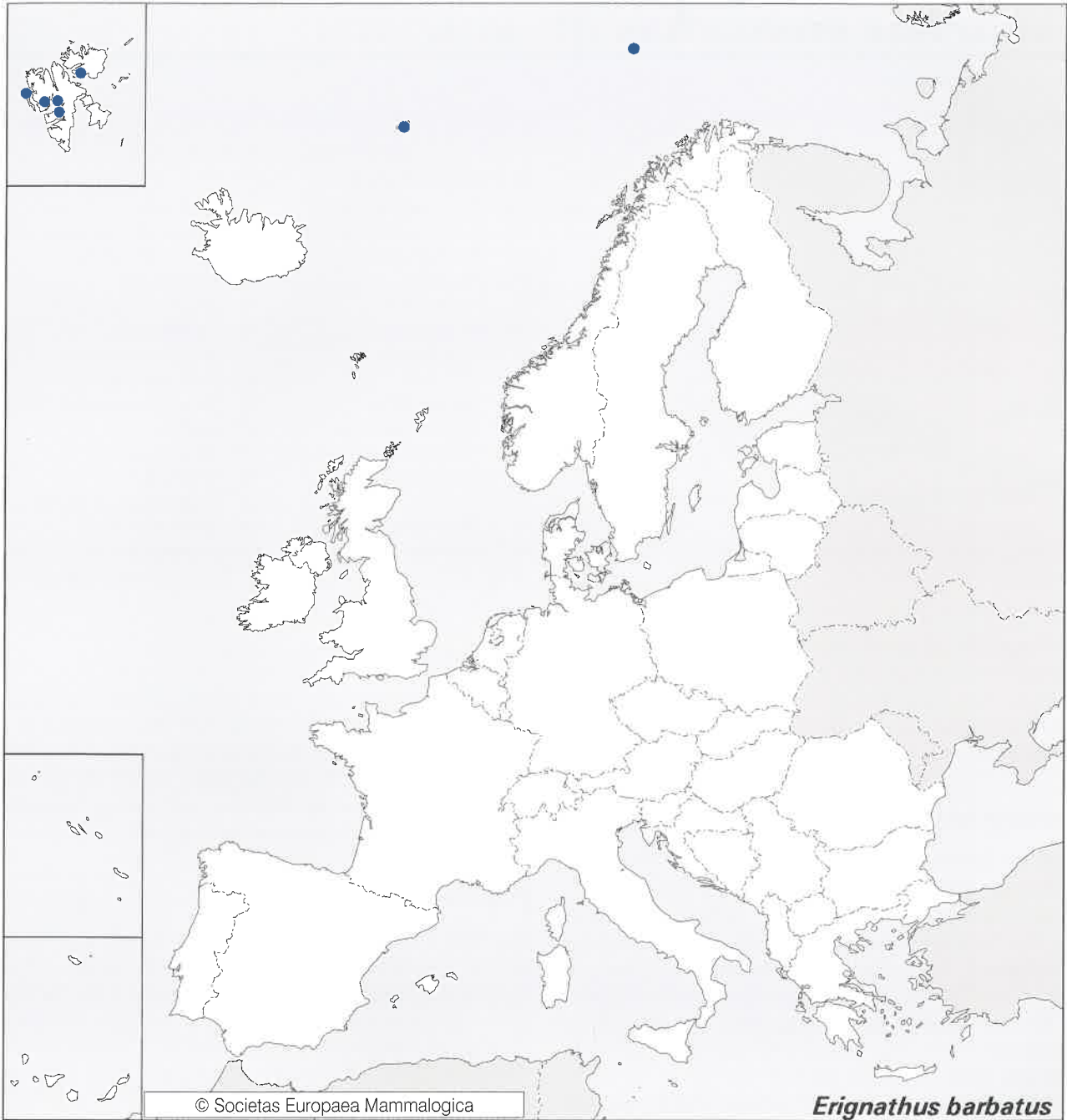
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E. H. Ries, S. M. J. M. Brasseur &
P. J. H. Reijnders



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Erignathus barbatus