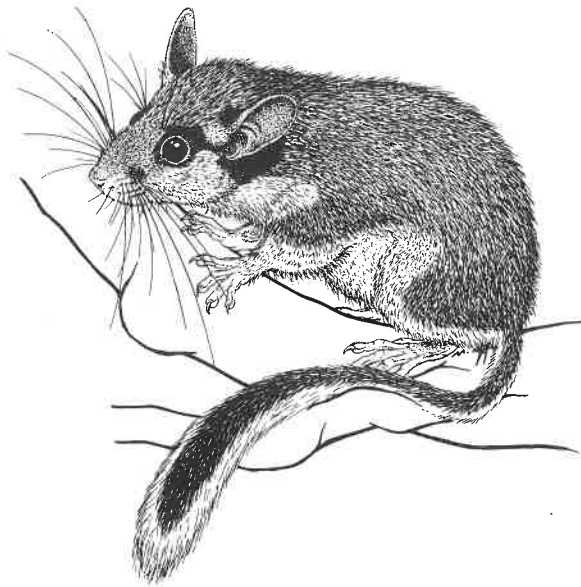


Eliomys quercinus (LINNAEUS, 1766)



U. Iff

Distribution

European endemic: from western Europe to the Urals. Actually confined to western Europe with scattered populations in the east. Limited to Dalmatia in the Balkan Peninsula. Absent from the British Isles and Iceland. Roman record in England probably results from introduction. Present on numerous Mediterranean islands: Formentera, Majorca, Menorca, Corsica, Sardinia, Sicily, Lipari, Krk, Brač, Hvar, Ščedro, Korčula, and Lastovo.

Geographic variation

Nine subspecies grouped in two morphotypes: *quercinus* and *lusitanicus*. Four distinct karyotypes have been described: 2N = 48 (Iberian Peninsula, Italian Peninsula, Balkan Peninsula), 2N = 50 (central Europe, Sardinia), 2N = 52 (central-eastern Alps), and 2N = 54 (western Alps). No correspondence exists between karyotypes and morphotypes.

Habitat

Not strictly arboreal, it is often found on the ground in scrub and especially among rocks and stone walls. Mainly found in woodland, both deciduous and coniferous, but it also occurs in orchards and gardens. It can reach 2000 m in the Alps and Pyrénées.

Population status

In recent decades this species has declined in central-

Garden dormouse

AL	-	LU	Gaardeschléifer
BG	Градински сънливец	LV	Dārza susuris
CZ	Plch zahradní	MK	-
DE	Gartenschläfer	MT	-
DK	Havesyvsover	NL	Eikelmuis
EE	Lagrits; Oravhiir	NO	Hagesyvsover
ES	Lirón careto	PL	Żołędnica
FI	Tammihiiiri	PT	Leirão; Rato-dos-pomares
FO	-	RO	Pârşul-de-stejar; Pârşul-de-ghindă
FR	Lérot	RU	Садовая соня
GR	-	SE	Trädgårdssovare
HR	Vrtni puh	SI	Vrtni polh
HU	Kerti pele	SK	Plch záhradný
IR	-	TR	Meşe faresi
IS	Garðsvæfla	YU	Вртни пух
IT	Topo quercino		
LT	Ažuolinė miegapelė		

eastern Europe and disappeared from areas of former occurrence. Rare in Latvia, Lithuania and in eastern Germany. Extensive regression of the area of distribution during this century in the Czech Republic. The species is considered extinct in the Slovakian part of western Carpathians. It disappeared from the continental parts of Croatia. Population densities can reach 30–50 ind./ha. Reproduction, starting from the second year, occurs once (rarely twice) annually in central Europe, more frequently twice in southern Europe. Litter sizes range between 1 and 9, mostly 4 to 6 young.

International legal & conservation status

Bern Convention, Appendix III.
IUCN Red List, Vulnerable.

Literature

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