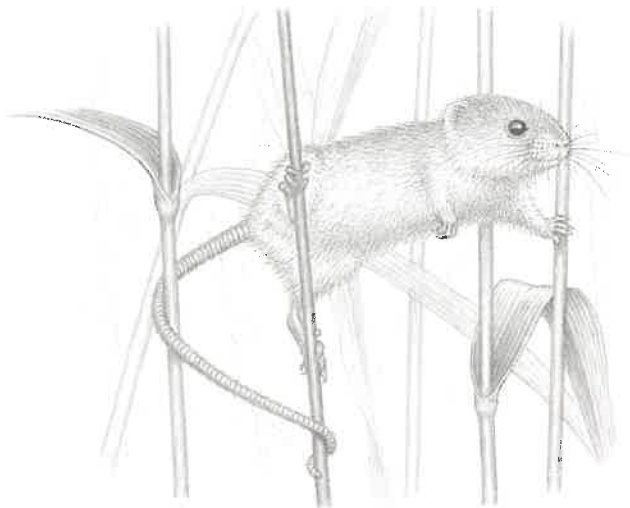


Micromys minutus (PALLAS, 1771)



P. Twisk

Distribution

World: from the Oriental region (Assam and Myanmar) throughout the Palaearctic, where it ranges from western Europe to Japan.

Europe: eastern and central Europe as far west as north-west Spain and England (locally in Wales and Scotland). Missing from Norway and the majority of Sweden; reaches 66°N in Finland. Absent also from the Alps, and the majority of Italy, while it is of local appearance in the Balkans.

Geographic variation

Sixteen subspecies described from Europe are poorly defined except *M. minutus danubialis* Simionescu, 1974 from the Danube delta which seems to be characterized by larger skull measurements. Size is larger also in other Balkan populations from southern Bulgaria, Macedonia and northern Greece.

Habitat

Mainly lowlands but exceptionally attaining 1700 m in southern European mountains. Original habitat probably reedbeds; in humid north-west European climates also in fields and gardens; in drier parts of its range more strongly linked to aquatic environment like wetlands, open parts and fringes of humid forests, weedy road ditches, rice fields and only very rarely in corn fields.

Population status

Many local populations have declined because of loss

Harvest mouse

AL	-	LT	Pelė mazylė
BG	Малка мишка	LJ	Kleng Feldmaus
CZ	Myška drobná	LV	Pundurpele
DE	Zwergmaus	MK	Цудест глушец
DK	Dværgmus	MT	-
EE	Pisihir	NL	Dwergmuis
ES	Ratón espiguero	NO	Dvergms
FI	Vaivaishiiri	PL	Badylarka
FO	-	PT	-
FR	Rat des moissons	RO	Soarecele-pitic
GR	Νανοποντικός	RU	Мышь-малютка
HR	Patuljasti miš	SE	Dvärgmus
HU	Törpeegér	SI	Pritlikava miš
IR	-	SK	Myš drobná
IS	Dverg mús	TR	Hasat faresi
IT	Topolino delle risaie	YU	Патуљаста миш

or alteration of habitat, such as drainage, drying out or degradation of wetlands and large-scale intensification of agriculture eliminating ditches, damp grassy patches and weeds in fields. In northern Germany density varied between 6.2 and 25.4 ind./ha, depending on habitat.

International legal & conservation status

IUCN Red List, Lower Risk – near threatened.

Literature

Böhme (1978b) – review

Jüdes (1981)

Spitzenberger (1986) – review

F. Spitzenberger

