

Apodemus flavicollis (MELCHIOR, 1834)



P. Barrett

Distribution

World: western Palaearctic; Europe, Near East.

Europe: more northern on mainland Europe than *A. sylvaticus*, in Finland and Sweden north to 64°N. East to the Urals. Limited distribution in the west and south; absent from western France and much of the Iberian Peninsula. Absent from most offshore islands, including Iceland, Ireland, The Balearics, Sardinia, Corsica, Sicily and Cyprus, but occurs on several Adriatic and Aegean islands. Present in Great Britain, where its current distribution is restricted to the south.

Geographic variation

Larger in north and west of range with a complete, yellow, pectoral collar evident in all individuals including juveniles. Smaller body size and incomplete pectoral collar in south and east.

Habitat

Regarded as primarily a species of mature deciduous woodland although known from other habitats including other deciduous woodland types and coniferous forest. More montane in habitat in southern part of range, though in the Balkans and western Anatolia the species is common in the lowlands but avoids extensive cultivated land. Annual population cycle as in *A. sylvaticus* with similar peak and minimum densities. No convincing evidence of multiannual cycles in abundance.

Yellow-necked mouse

AL	Miu gusheverdhe i pyllit	LT	Geltonkaklė pelė
BG	Жълтогърла горска мишка	LU	Giel Bėschmaus
CZ	Myšice lesní	LV	Dzeltenkakla klaidonpele
DE	Gelbhalsmaus	MK	Жолтогрлест шумски глушец
DK	Halsbåndmus	MT	-
EE	Kaelushiir	NL	Grote bosmuis
ES	Ratón de collar	NO	Stor skogmus
FI	Metsähiiri	PL	Mysz leśna
FO	-	PT	-
FR	Mulot à collier	RO	Șoarecele gulerat
GR	Κρικοποντικός	RU	Желтогорлая мышь
HR	Šumski miš	SE	Större skogsmus
HU	Sárganyakú erdeiégér	SI	Rumenogrla miš
IR	-	SK	Ryšavka leśná
IS	Kragamús	TR	Orman faresi
IT	Topo selvatico collo giallo	YU	Жутогрли миш

Population status

Widespread and abundant across its range. Human impacts only on a limited scale. No recent change in status but evidence of contraction of range in Britain associated with removal of original deciduous woodland for agriculture. Densities even in mature deciduous woodland generally low though occasionally reaching 60 ind./ha in Great Britain; more frequently part of mixed species communities in deciduous forest of over 100 ind./ha in eastern Europe.

International legal & conservation status

None.

Other information

An important prey species of mammalian carnivores and owls in woodlands and forests. Ecologically important consumer of tree and other seeds; opportunistically significant predator of invertebrates. Not usually a pest in agriculture although may cause problems in stores. Carrier of a number of zoonotic pathogens including hantavirus.

Literature

Flowerdew *et al.* (1985)
Montgomery (1985)
Niethammer (1978a) – review

W. I. Montgomery

