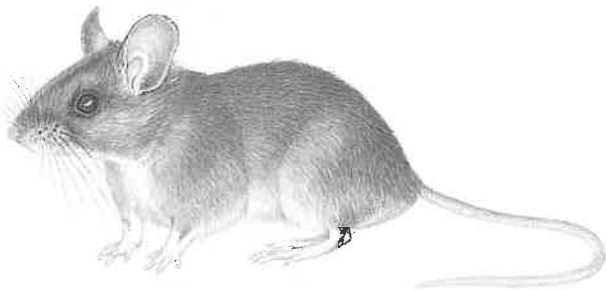


# *Apodemus sylvaticus* (LINNAEUS, 1758)



P. Barrett

## Wood mouse

|    |                         |    |                      |
|----|-------------------------|----|----------------------|
| AL | Miu i pyllit            | LT | Miškinė pelė         |
| BG | Обикновена горска мишка | LU | Bëschmaus            |
| CZ | Myšice křovinná         | LV | -                    |
| DE | Waldmaus                | MK | Шумски глушец        |
| DK | Skovmus                 | MT | Ġurdien tar-Raba'    |
| EE | -                       | NL | Bosmuis              |
| ES | Ratón de campo          | NO | Liten skogmus        |
| FI | Pikkumetsähiiri         | PL | Mysz zaroślowa       |
| FO | Skógarmús               | PT | Rato-do-campo        |
| FR | Mulot sylvestre         | RO | Soarecele de pădure  |
| GR | Δασοποντικός            | RU | Лесная мышь          |
| HR | Poljski miš             | SE | Mindre skogsmus      |
| HU | Közönséges erdeiégér    | SI | Navadna belonoga miš |
| IR | Lúch fheir              | SK | Ryšavka krovinná     |
| IS | Hagamús                 | TR | Adi tarla faresi     |
| IT | Topo selvatico          | YU | Шумски миш           |

## Distribution

**World:** Europe, Asia Minor and parts of north Africa.

**Europe:** widespread in Europe, from the Iberian peninsula to westernmost Russia. As far north as Iceland, southern Norway and Sweden. In the Mediterranean it is found on the majority of islands, including Sardinia, Corsica, Sicily and Crete.

## Geographic variation

Numerous island forms described but most, especially around the British Isles, do not warrant sub-specific status. Others such as *A. sylvaticus dicrurus* (Rafinesque, 1814) on Sicily may be valid. Tendency for forms on smaller islands to be larger than those on the mainland or larger islands. Considerable pelage variation in colour, pectoral stripe and white tail tip but no discernible geographic patterns. Polymorphic at the molecular level even where dealing with island populations.

## Habitat

Extremely variable, including suburban areas or inner city areas where parkland or railway embankments are available, agricultural land, oldfields, riparian habitats, moors, forestry plantations and woodlands of all kinds. Geographic variation in habitat use with western populations associated with diverse habitats and eastern ones with woodland edge habitats and, in the extreme east, steppeland. Present as one of the most common

small mammals under the more arid conditions of Mediterranean habitats.

## Population status

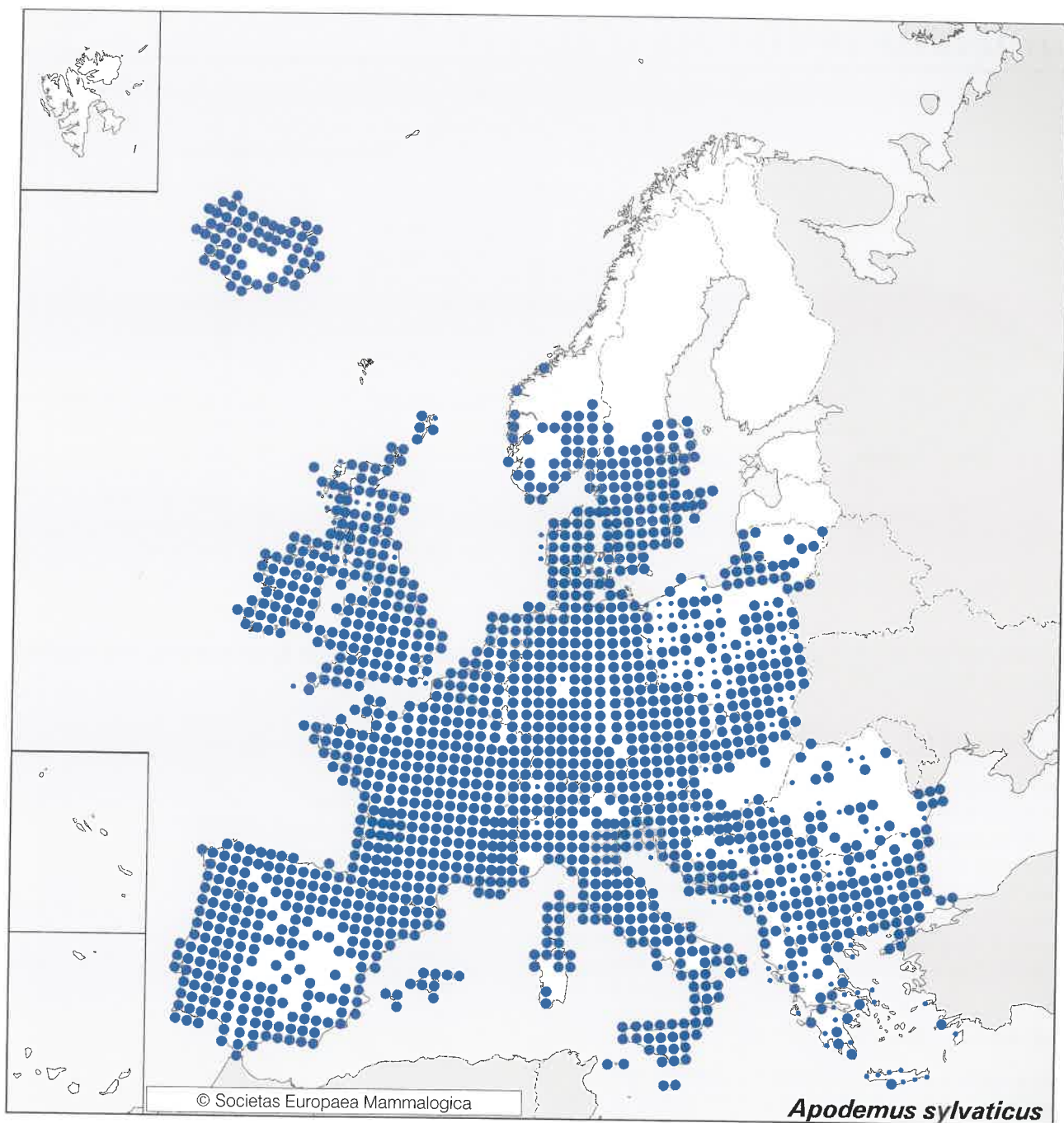
Widespread and abundant across its range. Human impacts only on a limited scale associated with agrochemicals and lead pollution. No recent change in status. Peak annual densities in woodland may exceed 50 ind./ha in heavy mast years while lows may be less than 1 ind./ha. Peak densities may be greater in woodland adjacent to arable fields or lower in, for example, sand dunes. No evidence of multiannual cycles.

## International legal & conservation status

None.

## Other information

An important prey species of mammalian carnivores and owls. Ecologically important consumer of tree and other seeds; opportunistically significant predator of invertebrates. Intensively studied. Not usually a pest in agriculture although may cause problems through seed removal of pulses and other crops in fields and greenhouses. Carrier of a number of zoonotic pathogens, including hantavirus, louping ill virus and spirochaetes but not regarded as a major threat to health of either man or domestic animals.



## Literature

- Flowerdew *et al.* (1985)  
Flowerdew (1991)  
Mezhzherin & Lashkova (1992)  
Niethammer (1978c) – review  
Wilson *et al.* (1993)

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