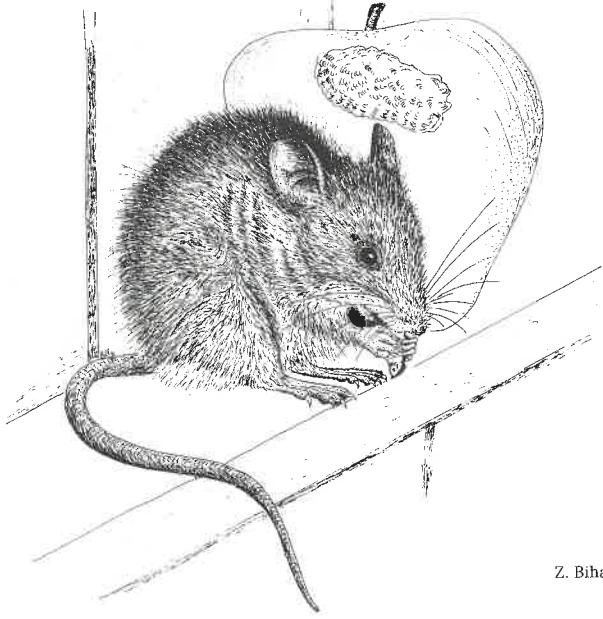


# *Mus musculus* LINNAEUS, 1758



Z. Bihari

Sometimes referred to as *M. musculus musculus* (see the *M. domesticus* account for details).

## Distribution

**World:** Palaearctic, from northern and central Europe to the Far East, including northern China; missing from some northernmost extremities of Eurasia.

**Europe:** Fennoscandia, central and eastern Europe, Iceland (P. Hersteinsson, pers. comm.) and islands in the Baltic Sea. It meets with *M. domesticus* along c. 1200-km hybrid zone from Denmark through central Europe and the Balkans to Bulgaria; another zone of contact of the two taxa is in the Caucasus region.

## Geographic variation

A varied number of subspecies were recognized depending on the author. However, those taxa have not been substantiated to be distinct units according to morphological and genetic analyses. Karyotypically much more stable than *M. domesticus*. Mitochondrial DNA less variable than in *M. domesticus*.

## Habitat

Similar to that of *M. domesticus*. Commensal, yet it occurs also outdoors. Some populations live in agricultural lands, meadows and shrublands during mild seasons but overwinter in buildings, hay stacks and straw ricks. They have been reported from rocky outcrops along the northern Arctic coast, 50 km from

## Eastern house mouse

AL	Miu i arave	LT	Naminė pelė
BG	-	LU	Hausmaus
CZ	Myš domácí	LV	Mājas pele
DE	Östliche Hausmaus	MK	Домашен глушец
DK	Lys husmus	MT	Gurdien ta' l-Imramma
EE	Koduhiir	NL	Noordelijke huismuis
ES	Ratón casero oriental	NO	Husmus
FI	Kotihiiiri	PL	Mysz domowa wschodnia
FO	Eystanmús	PT	Ratinho-caseiro
FR	Souris grise	RO	Șoarecele-de-casă
GR	Σταχτομυός	RU	Домовая мышь
HR	Istočni kućni miš	SE	Husmus
HU	Házi egér	SI	Belosiva hišna miš
IR	-	SK	Myš domová
IS	Norræna húsamús	TR	Ev fındık faresi
IT	Topolino delle case	YU	Типични донаћи миш

the nearest human dwellings. Like *M. domesticus*, this species avoids woodlands.

## Population status

Common except under ecological extreme conditions (higher mountains, deserts and semi-deserts, northern parts of Eurasia). This species has a rapid reproductive rate, with 1–12 (exceptionally up to 14) embryos per litter; the average number of young per litter is 5–9. Outside buildings usually not very numerous; population size and density is similar to *M. domesticus* but irregular outbreaks are extremely rare.

## International legal & conservation status

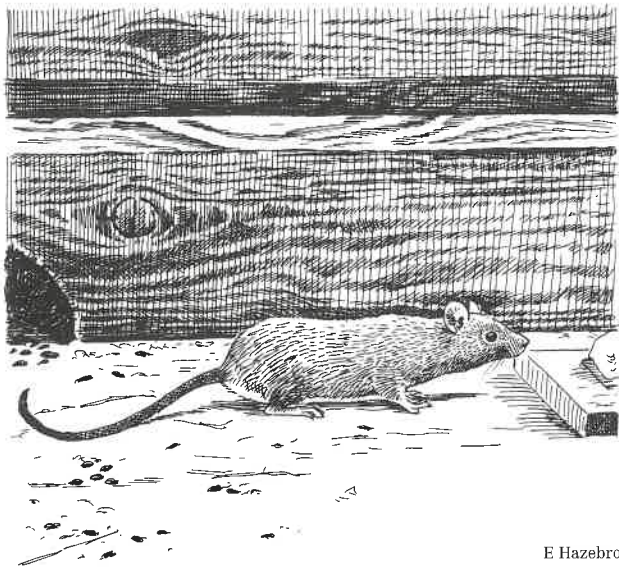
None.

## Other information

As with *M. domesticus*, this species is a significant pest, inflicting economic wastage by destroying and contaminating stored foods and crops and causing other kinds of damage as well. It is also a vector of diseases transmittable to man (e.g., leptospirosis, salmonellosis), though less important than rats. It has contributed substantially to the genome of most laboratory mouse strains.

R5177, 1772

# *Mus domesticus* SCHWARZ & SCHWARZ, 1943



E Hazebroek  
ED '97.

Regarded as a subspecies of *M. musculus* by some authors while others treat it as a distinct species. It includes also the tobacco mouse *M. poschiavinus* Fatio, 1869.

## Distribution

**World:** western and southern Europe, Asia from Turkey to Iran and southwards to North Africa. Through its close association with humans it has colonized both Americas, Africa south of the Sahara, northern Australia and oceanic islands.

**Europe:** restricted to western and southern parts of the mainland, Mediterranean islands, the British Isles and Faroe Islands. Its range abuts that of *M. musculus* in central and south-eastern Europe, where these taxa form a narrow hybrid zone stretching from the Jutland Peninsula to Bulgaria.

## Geographic variation

Three subspecies, *M. domesticus domesticus*, *M. d. breviostris* Waterhouse, 1837, and *M. d. praetextus* Brants, 1827, have been usually recognized yet both morphological and genetic analyses have not substantiated these taxa to be distinct units. About 35 different karyotypic races have been hitherto described with a decreased number of chromosomes owing to Robertsonian fusions.

## Western house mouse

AL	Miu i shtepise	LT	-
BG	Домашна мишка	LX	-
CZ	Myš západoevropská	LV	-
DE	Westliche Hausmaus	МК	Домашен глшец
DK	Mørk husmus	MT	-
EE	Majahiir	NL	Huismuís
ES	Ratón casero occidental	NO	-
FI	Harmaahiiri	PL	Mysz domowa zachodnia
FO	Vestanmús	PT	Rato-caseiro; Ratinho
FR	Souris domestique	RO	-
GR	Σπιτοποντικός	RU	-
HR	Zapadni kućni miš	SE	-
HU	-	SI	Črnosiva hišna miš
IR	Luch thí	SK	-
IS	Vestraena húsamús	TR	Ev faresi
IT	Topolino domestico	YU	Домаћи миш

## Habitat

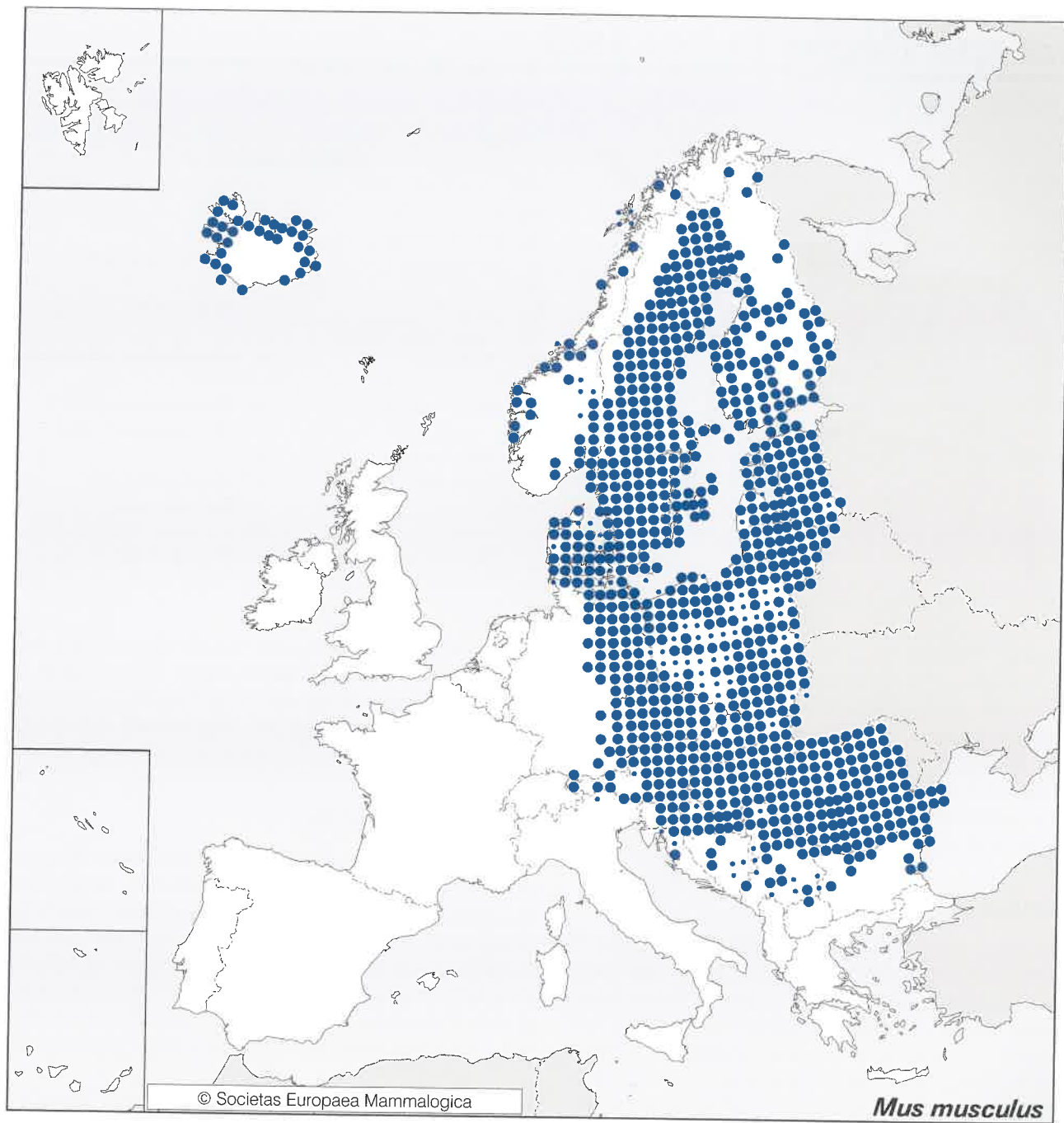
House mice are ecologically highly opportunistic animals but weak competitors. Typically, they are strictly commensal yet are also able to live outdoors. They occur in an immensely wide range of habitats including such extremities as coal mines and frozen meat stores. Some populations have undergone a secondary feralization and colonized various outdoor habitats such as agricultural lands, sand dunes, salt marshes, sea-bird cliffs, grasslands, and roadside verges with bushes. It avoids woodlands and extremely dry areas.

## Population status

Common, except in some extreme habitats (e.g., mountains). Reproduction is rapid, with the average number of young per litter about 5–7; up to three litters per year outdoors, in ricks and in buildings throughout the year. Population size and density are highly variable but indoor populations are generally smaller yet of higher densities. Large irregular population outbreaks were recorded in the USA and Australia. Maximal density of outdoor populations about 60 ind./ha; extreme cases: 875 mice per hectare were recorded during a plague in Australia, whilst a density as high as 70000 animals per hectare was found in a chicken barn in USA.

## International legal & conservation status

None.

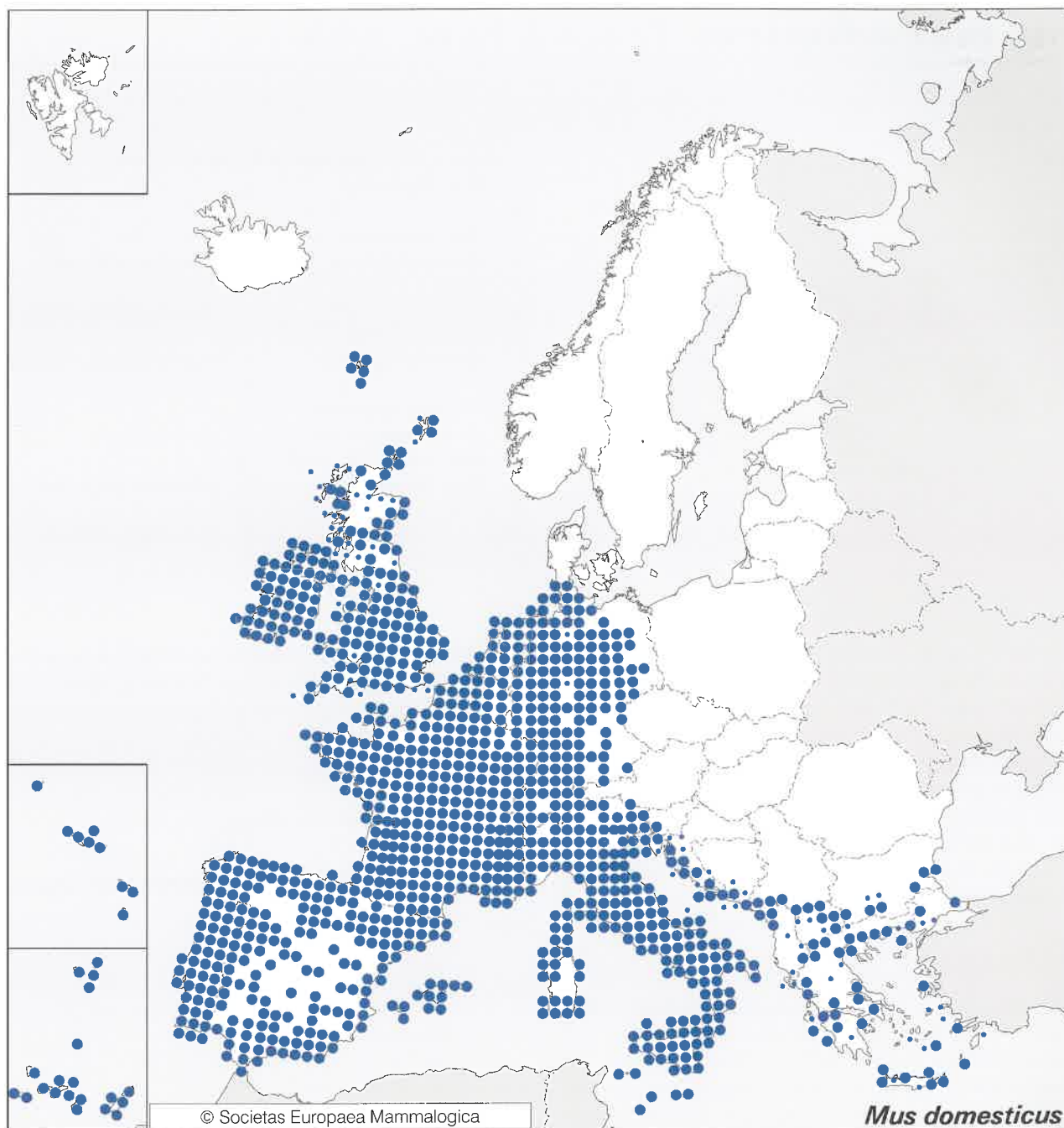


## Literature

- Boursot *et al.* (1993)  
 Kotenkova & Bulatova (1994) – review  
 Kutcheruk (1994)  
 Prager *et al.* (1996)  
 Sage (1981)  
 Zima *et al.* (1990)

M. Macholán





### Other information

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### Literature

- Auffray *et al.* (1990)
- Belkhir *et al.* (1991)
- Berry (1981) – review
- Sage *et al.* (1993)

M. Macholán