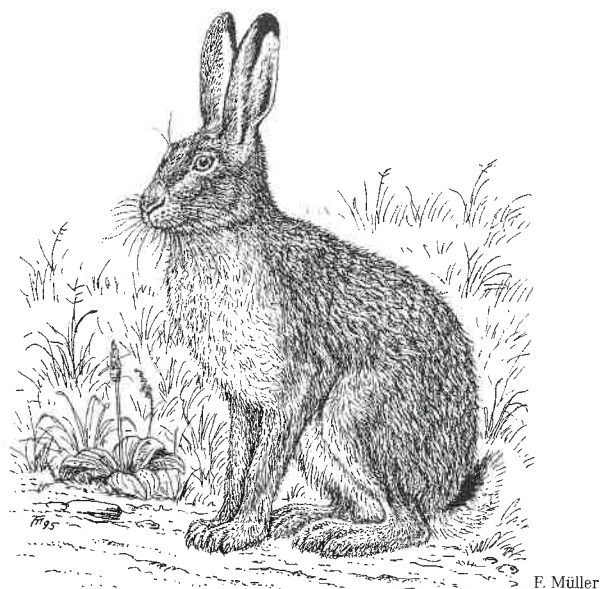


Lepus europaeus PALLAS, 1778



Brown hare

AL	Lepuri i eger	LT	Pilkasis kiškis
BG	Сив заек	LU	Hues
CZ	Zajíc polní	LV	Pelēkais zaķis
DE	Feldhase	MK	Див zajak
DK	Hare	MT	Liebru
EE	Halljänes	NL	Haas
ES	Liebre europea	NO	Sørhare
FI	Rusakko	PL	Zając szarak
FO	Hara	PT	Lebre-europeia
FR	Lièvre d'Europe	RO	Іepure; Іepurele-de-câmp
GR	Λαγός	RU	Заяц-русак
HR	Europski zec	SE	Fälthare
HU	Mezei nyúl	SI	Poljski zajec
IR	Giorria gallda	SK	Zajac pol'ný
IS	Gráheri	TR	Avrupa tavşanı
IT	Lepre europea	YU	Зец

Now specifically separated from similar but smaller species occurring in Africa, Iberia, southern Italy, Sicily and central Asia.

Distribution

World: from western Europe to west Siberian lowlands and south-west Asia (Iran).

Europe: throughout Europe except northern Scandinavia, northern Russia, the Iberian peninsula south of Cantabria and the Ebro river and most Mediterranean islands. Introduced to Ireland and southern Sweden.

Geographic variation

High mobility and occupation of dominant and continuous habitats result in low variation observed among mainland populations. However, several subspecies are recognized in Europe differing mainly in size and colour pattern. Geographic variation obscured by translocations.

Habitat

Temperate open woodland, farmland with pastures and grassland, steppes. Prefers flat country, occurring up to 1500 m in the mountains. Woods, scrub and hedges are used as resting sites.

Population status

Mainly solitary and dispersed, with ranges of several tens or, exceptionally, hundreds of hectares. Population densities vary from 0.2 to 0.7 ind./ha. Most populations considered secure. However, a decline in numbers has been recorded in countries from western and central Europe in recent decades, resulting supposedly from the extensive use of fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture, as well as heavy agricultural mechanization.

International legal & conservation status

Bern Convention, Appendix III (as part of *L. capensis sensu lato*).

Other information

Important game species in most countries. In areas of sympatric occurrence, it may occasionally hybridize with the mountain hare *Lepus timidus*, but the hybrids are sterile.

Literature

Angermann (1983)
Flux & Angermann (1990) – review
Hartl *et al.* (1993)
Pielowski & Pucek (1976)
Schneider (1978) – review
Zörner (1981) – review

M. Homolka & J. Zima

