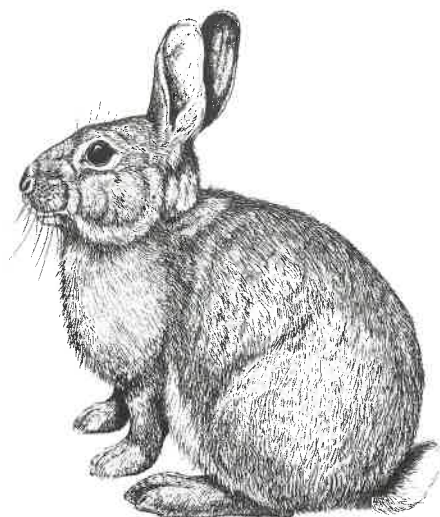


# *Oryctolagus cuniculus* (LINNAEUS, 1758)



J. Mikuletič

## Rabbit

AL	Lepuri i eger i vogel; Lepuri i Sazanit	LT	Triušis
BG	Заяк подземник	LU	Wëll Kanéngchen
CZ	Králík divoký	LV	Savvaļas trusis
DE	Wildkaninchen	MK	Домашен зајак
DK	Vildkanin	MT	Fenek Salvaġġ
EE	Küülik	NL	Konijn
ES	Conejo	NO	Villkanin
FI	Kaniini	PL	Królik dziki
FO	-	PT	Coelho-bravo
FR	Lapin de garenne	RO	Iepurele-de-vizuină
GR	Αγριοκούνελο	RU	Дикий кролик
HR	Kunić	SE	Vildkanin
HU	Űregi nyúl	SI	Kunec
IR	Coinín	SK	Králík divý
IS	Villikanína	TR	Ada tavşanı
IT	Coniglio selvatico	YU	Кунџ

## Distribution

**World:** western Palaearctic except most of Fennoscandia. Introduced to all continents except Antarctica.

**Europe:** original range limited to Iberia. By introductions, which started as early as the Roman period, and natural spread, the rabbit came to western and central Europe and to certain parts of southern and eastern Europe. Now north to Shetland, southern Sweden and Gotland, east to the north coast of the Black Sea. Very localized in the Balkans, mainly on Greek islands.

## Geographic variation

No subspecies are recognized on the mainland of Europe. However, certain populations on Atlantic and/or western Mediterranean islands are considered separate subspecies on the basis of small size and paler colour. Three genetically distinct lineages were found in Spain, southern France, and northern Africa, respectively.

## Habitat

Grassland and meadows with sandy soils, surrounded by woodland, scrub, hedges or rocks which provide cover. Avoids higher altitudes, coniferous woodland, and cold or humid habitats.

## Population status

At higher densities forms stable colonies comprising up to 20 adults. The population density usually varies from 0.5 to 10, exceptionally 25–100, individuals per hectare. European populations crashed due to myxomatosis in the 1950s, and the virus may still affect numbers in certain areas. Populations on Atlantic and Mediterranean islands, subspecies *O. c. huxley* (Haeckel, 1874), may be endangered. Domesticated forms of the rabbit occur worldwide, but there is poor information about the admixture of domestic strains in natural populations.

## International legal & conservation status

None.

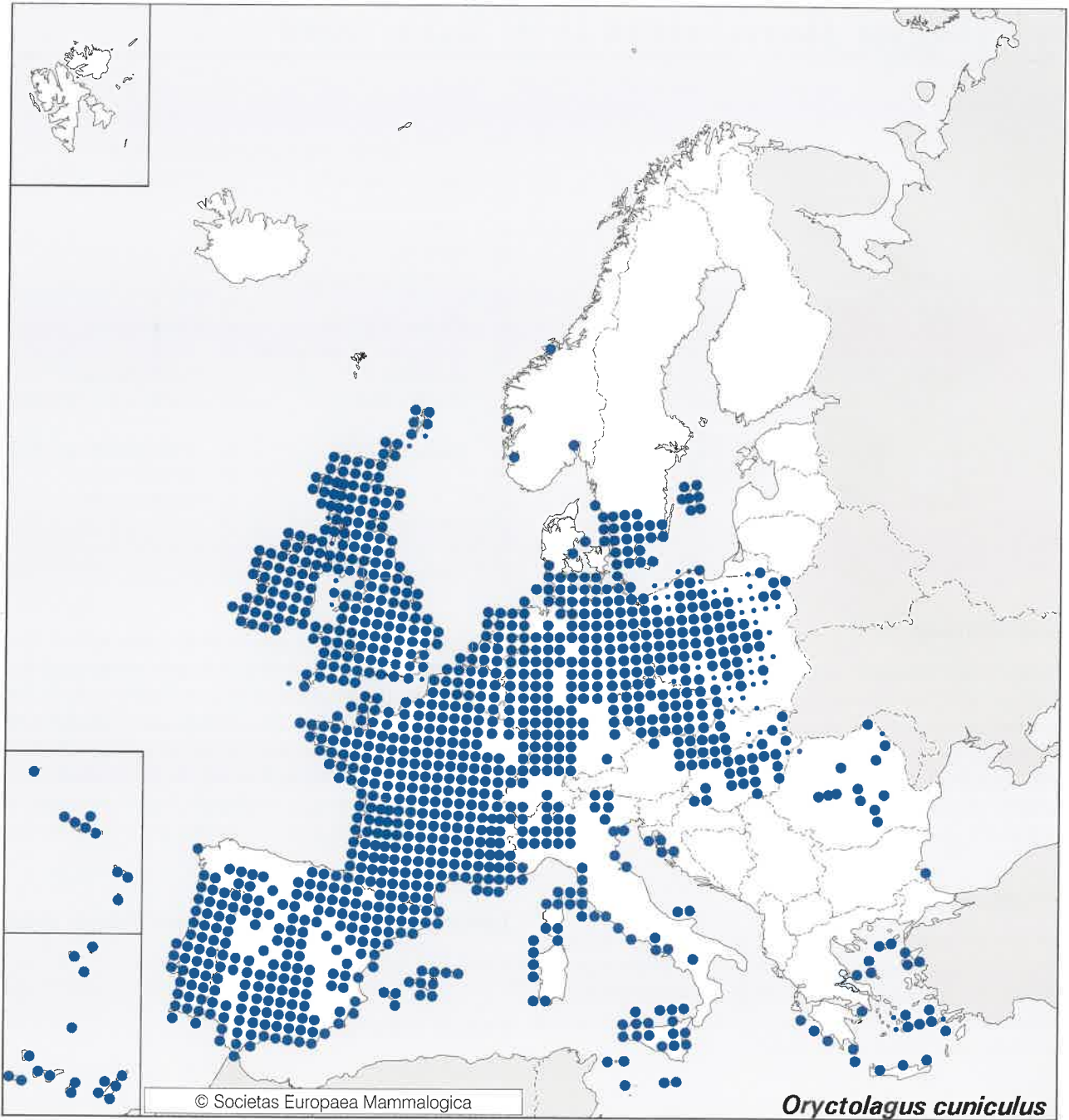
## Other information

Important game animal in areas where common. Digs deep burrows; large groups build a complicated system of underground tunnels.

## Literature

- Bobak (1970) – review
- Gibb (1990)
- Hardy *et al.* (1995)
- Monnerot *et al.* (1994a)
- Monnerot *et al.* (1994b)

M. Homolka & J. Zima



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