

Procyon lotor (LINNAEUS, 1758)



E. Hazebroek

Distribution

World: Originally a North American species, occurring from the prairie provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan (56°N) and Alberta (58°N) in Canada, in the USA except for parts of the Rockies and deserts, south to Mexico and the southern states of central America perhaps as far as northern Columbia.

Europe: In 1934 two pairs of *Procyon* were released in the forest district of Vöhl in Hessen, Germany. Before and after 1945 farmed animals escaped at various places in central Europe. The subsequent increase in distribution is well documented. The species was also introduced into the former Soviet Union from 1936 onwards, where it was actively acclimatized at 26 localities in Belarus, Azerbaijan, Dagestan, Uzbekistan and the area of Krasnodar. From Germany, the species migrated to the Benelux States, France, Switzerland, Austria and the Czech Republic. Some individuals have also been found in Poland, Hungary, Denmark and Slovakia.

Geographic variation

In north and central America 25 subspecies have been described, with *P. lotor hirtus* Nelson & Goldman, 1930 being the most widespread and *P. l. marinus* Nelson, 1930 the most restricted (Florida Keys). The origin of the animals introduced into Europe for fur farming is unknown and its taxonomic status has not been investigated in Eurasia.

Raccoon

AL	-	LT	Meškėnas
BG	Американски енот	LU	Wäschbier
CZ	Mýval severní	LV	Jenots
DE	Waschbär	MK	Пакун
DK	Vaskebjørn	MT	-
EE	Pesukaru	NL	Wasbeer
ES	Mapache	NO	Vaskebjørn
FI	Pesukarhu	PL	Szop pracz
FO	Tvátarbjørn	PT	Mapache; Ratão-lavadeiro; Guaxinim
FR	Raton laveur	RO	-
GR	Ρακούβ	RU	ЕНОТ
HR	Rakun	SE	Tvättbjörn
HU	Észak-amerikai mosómedve	SI	Rakun
IR	-	SK	Medvedík čistotný
IS	Þvottabjörn	TR	-
IT	Orsetto lavatore	YU	Пакун

Habitat

The species uses a wide variety of habitats. Woodland with old trees and holes near to lakes and rivers is preferred. *Procyon lotor* also settles in suburban ecosystems with parks and gardens.

Population status

Range and density in the whole European distribution area is increasing. Population density in preferred habitats is 1–2 ind./100 ha, but can be even higher in suburban habitats.

International legal & conservation status

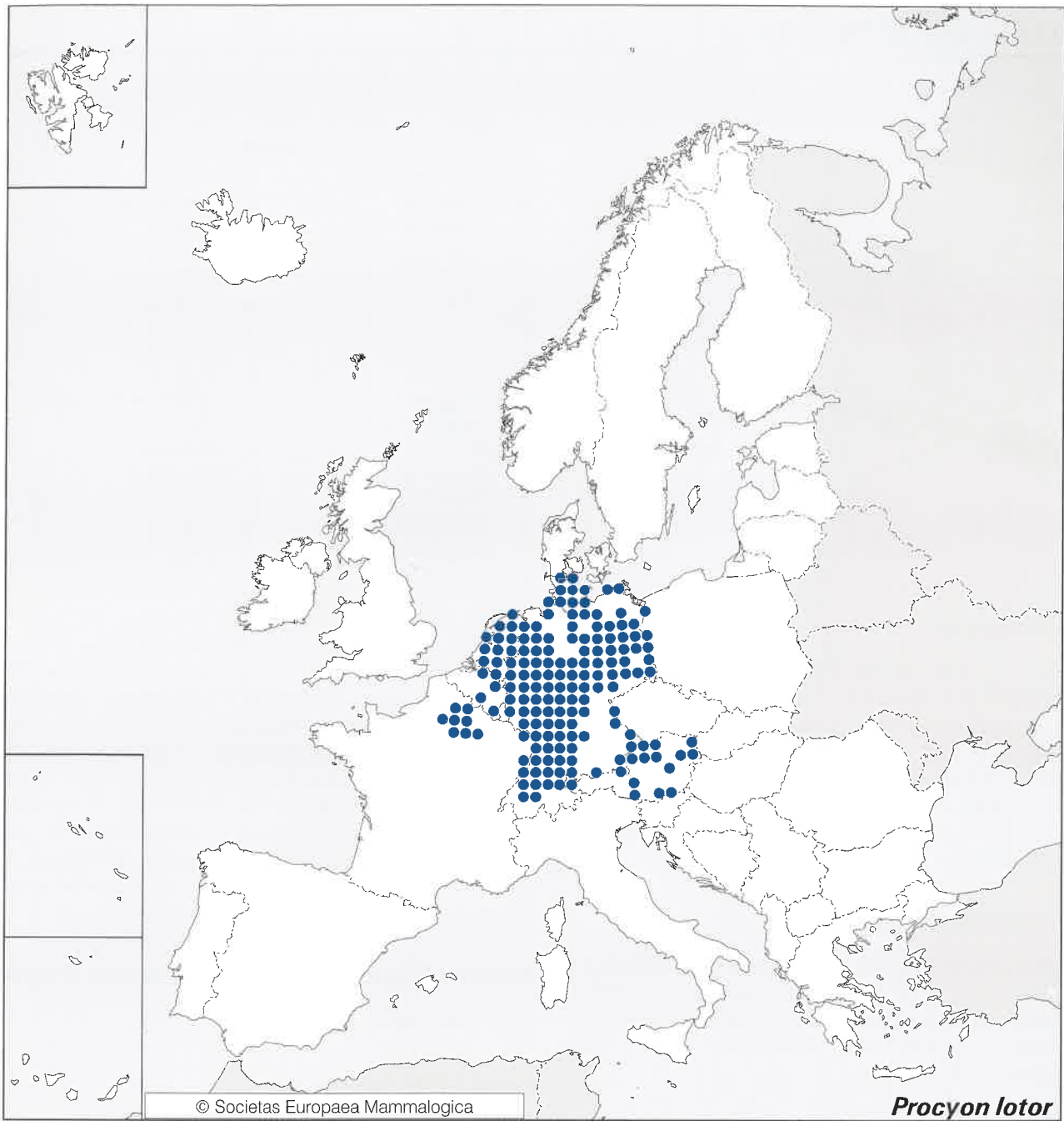
None.

Other information

Animals accumulate large fat deposits in the autumn (up to 2.5 kg) for the inactive winter months. The species is a vector for rabies.

Literature

- Hall & Kelson (1959)
- Heptner & Naumov (1974)
- Lutz (1984)
- Niethammer (1963)



Pavlov *et al.* (1973)
Röben (1975, 1976)
Stubbe (1975, 1990, 1993c)

M. Stubbe