

# *Genetta genetta* (LINNAEUS, 1758)



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The specific status of common genets in Africa, south and east of the Sahara, is not clear. Some authors have included them in *Genetta genetta*, but here we have considered them as *Genetta felina*.

## Distribution

**World:** according to the restricted point of view of Schlawe, the range of *Genetta genetta* covers the north-west of Africa (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia) and the west of Europe.

**Europe:** all continental Portugal and Spain and most of France (mainly south of the Loire river and west of the Rhone river). Mediterranean islands of Mallorca, Ibiza and Cabrera (Balearic islands). There are scattered records in Belgium, Switzerland, Germany and north-west Italy. On a zoogeographical basis the species should be considered as introduced in Europe, perhaps a long time ago.

## Geographic variation

Four subspecies are commonly recognized in Europe: *G. genetta genetta* (continental Portugal and Spain), *G. g. rhodanica* Matschie, 1902 (France), *G. g. balearica* Thomas, 1902 (Mallorca and Cabrera islands) and *G. g. isabellae* Delibes, 1977 (Ibiza island), but only the last one, very small, can be clearly differentiated from the nominate subspecies.

## Common genet

AL	-	LT	Paprastoji geneta
BG	Малка петниста генета	LU	-
CZ	Ženetka tečkovaná	LV	Vidusjūras vivera
DE	Kleinflecken-Ginsterkatze	MK	Генета
DK	Genette	MT	-
EE	Genett	NL	Genetkat
ES	Jineta	NO	Genett
FI	Genetti	PL	Żeneta
FO	-	PT	Geneta
FR	Genette commune	RO	-
GR	-	RU	Генета
HR	Europska cibetka	SE	Genett
HU	Ěszaki petymeg	SI	Severnoafriška ženeta
IR	-	SK	Ženeta obyčajaná
IS	Gínköttur	TR	-
IT	Genetta	YU	Циберка

## Habitat

*Genetta genetta* is a habitat generalist, but requires some vegetal or rocky cover. It is frequently found in riparian habitats, but it is also able to occupy very dry zones. In central Spain it is rarely found above 1200 m and in France 800 m. Usually, resting and breeding sites are established in rocky crevices and hollow trees. Middens (latrines or defaecation sites), situated at high dominant points, are very characteristic. The common genet eats mainly small rodents and birds, although the Balearic populations capture many reptiles.

## Population status

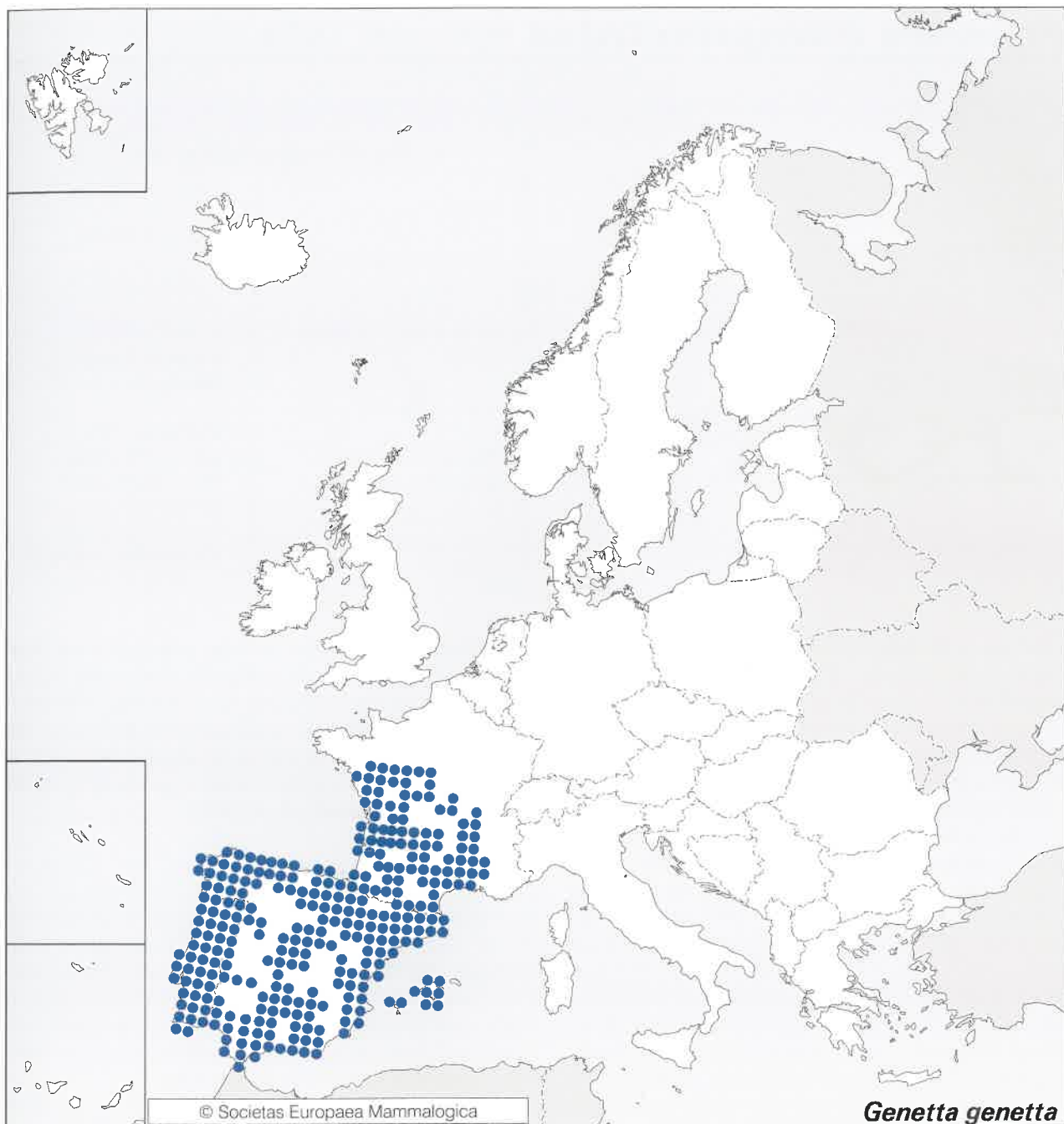
A moderately abundant carnivore, whose numbers are increasing in France. In southern Spain densities have been estimated at 0.3-0.7 ind./km<sup>2</sup>.

## International legal & conservation status

Bern Convention, Appendix III.  
EU Habitats & Species Directive, Annex V.  
IUCN Red List, Vulnerable (*G. g. isabellae* only).

## Other information

In the past, *Genetta genetta* was frequently trapped because of its fur. It may be killed by other species of carnivores, including lynx, foxes and dogs.



## Literature

- Krapp & Delibes (1993) – review  
 Livet & Roeder (1987)  
 Palomares & Delibes (1994)  
 Palomares *et al.* (1996)  
 Schauenberg (1966)  
 Schlawe (1980)  
 Virgós & Casanovas (1997)

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