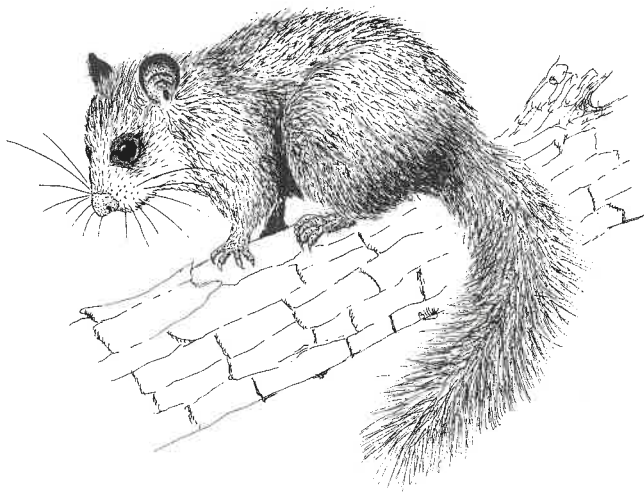


Glis glis (LINNAEUS, 1766)



Z. Bihari

Distribution

World: Europe, northern Asia Minor, the Caucasus, and north-western Iran.

Europe: southern and central part of the mainland, from northern Spain to the River Volga. Northernmost records are from the Baltic States, and the southernmost from the island of Crete. Introduced also to England. Found on many Mediterranean islands.

Geographic variation

Approximately eight subspecies recognized currently, based on differences in size and coloration. Doubtful that all are valid. The smallest populations come from central Europe and southern Balkans, and the largest from the Dinaric Alps and Italy. Karyotype is stable.

Habitat

Deciduous and mixed forests of beech, oak and chestnut. Highest population densities on karstic substrate, with underground spaces suitable for hibernation. On the Mediterranean coast also maquis and shrubland on rocky ground. Frequently enters huts and houses. It is found from sea level to the upper limit of deciduous trees; in central Europe rarely above 1000 m (highest record from 1400 m); in the south up to 2000 m.

Population status

Common in the south, where considered to be pest to forestry and agriculture at peak densities. Rare

Fat dormouse; Edible dormouse

AL	Gjumashi i majme i pyllit;	LT	Didžioji miegapelė
	Gjeri	LU	-
BG	Обикновен сънливец	LV	Lielais susuris; Dižsusuris
CZ	Plch velký	MK	Обичен полв
DE	Siebenschläfer	MT	-
DK	Syvsover	NL	Reilmuis
EE	Kunel	NO	Syvsover
ES	Lirón gris	PL	Popielica
FI	Unikeko	PT	-
FO	-	RO	Pârşul-cenuşiu
FR	Loir gris	RU	Соня-полчок
GR	Δασοµωξός	SE	Sjusovare
HR	Sivi puh	SI	Navadni polh
HU	Nagy pele	SK	Plch sivý
IR	-	TR	Yediuyur
IS	-	YU	Обични пух
IT	Ghiro		

throughout central Europe and probably threatened along the northern border of its range. Population densities around 5 ind./ha in central Europe, but higher values (20–22 ind./ha) are also reported. Densities probably higher in southern Europe.

International legal & conservation status

Bern Convention, Appendix III.

IUCN Red List, Lower Risk – near-threatened.

Other information

It was bred in captivity for food in ancient Rome. In Slovenia, where it was a commodity species from the 13th century onwards, it was an important source of meat, fat and extra money (by selling skins) for poor peasants. Hunting was taxed throughout its history. Tradition of hunting still strong, although without commercial motivations. Similar attitude known also in Croatia and Italy. Covered by game act in Slovenia and Croatia.

Literature

- Carpaneto & Cristaldi (1995)
Jurczyszyn (1995)
Storch (1978c) – review

B. Kryštufek

