

Clethrionomys glareolus (SCHREBER, 1780)



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Distribution

World: Western Palaearctic forest belt, from British Isles to Lake Baikal. Also in northern Asia Minor.

Europe: north to the Arctic circle, south to northern Spain, mountains of Italy, and the Balkans. Presence in Ireland probably results from recent introduction. Common on the islands off the Atlantic and Baltic coasts, but absent from Mediterranean islands.

Geographic variation

Considerable and complex variation of size, relative tail length, skull proportions, dental pattern and colour has led to the description of more than 30 subspecies. A revision and interpretation is still missing. Marginal populations as well as mountain forms tend to be larger with relatively longer tails than those in central and north European lowlands. Light-coloured forms live in the south-east and in the lowlands of Central Europe, dark forms in north-east Europe and Britain and some in mountains. Interpopulation variability in the Y chromosome, which is either acrocentric or metacentric, shows no clear geographic pattern.

Habitat

All types of forests from sea level to 2400 m altitude. Prefers densely covered clearings and margins of moist deciduous and mixed forests. Highest densities on banks of brooks and in riverine forests accompanying rivers and streams. In deforested areas with high general

Bank vole

AL	-	LU	Rout Bäschmaus
BG	Горска полевка	LV	Meža strupaste; Rūsganā mežstrupaste
CZ	Norník rudý	MK	Лисеца полјанка
DE	Rötelmaus	MT	-
DK	Rødmus	NL	Rosse woelmuis
EE	Leethiir; Tava-leethiir	NO	Klatremus
ES	Topillo rojo	PL	Nornica ruda
FI	Metsämyyrä	PT	-
FO	-	RO	Șoarecele-scurmător-de-pădure
FR	Campagnol roussâtre	RU	Рыжая полёвка
GR	Δασοκαπτοποντικός	SE	Skogssork
HR	Riđa voluharica	SI	Gozdna voluharica
HU	Vöröshátú erdei pocok	SK	Hrdziak lesný
IR	Vól bruaigh	TR	Kızıl sırtlı fare
IS	Bakkastúfa	YU	Рића волухарица
IT	Arvicola rossastra		
LT	Rudasis pelėnas		

humidity also in parks, gardens and hedgerows, even grasslands. In the south, restricted to montane forests.

Population status

Very common in large parts of Europe. Densities vary between 6–12 ind./ha and 50–100 ind./ha. Bank vole populations show multiannual fluctuations which may be cyclic or noncyclic.

International legal & conservation status

None.

Literature

Petrusewicz (1983)

Viro & Niethammer (1982) – review

F. Spitzenberger

