

Microtus duodecimcostatus DE SÉLYS-LONGCHAMPS, 1839



Mediterranean pine vole

AL	-	LU	-
BG	Средиземноморска полевка	LV	-
CZ	Hrabošík středomořský	MK	-
DE	Mittelmeer-Kleinwühlmaus	MT	-
DK	Provence-markmus	NL	Provençaalse woelmuis
EE	-	NO	Provençemarkmus
ES	Topillo cavador	PL	Darniówka
FI	Välimerentunnelimyyrä	PT	śródziemnomorska
FR	Campagnol provençal	RO	Rato-cego-mediterrânico
GR	Ρυγχοοκαπτοποντικός	RU	-
HR	Sredozemni voluharić	SE	Средиземноморская полевка
HU	Ibériai pocok	SI	Provence-gransork
IR	-	SK	Sredozemska kratkouha voluharica
IS	-	TR	-
IT	Arvicola iberica	YU	-
LT	-		

Distribution

Endemic to the western Mediterranean area of Europe. Widely distributed throughout the Iberian Peninsula (except north-west) and south-east France.

Geographic variation

Seven subspecies have been described on the basis of colour and size. The species is now considered as monotypic, regardless of the fact that interpopulation variation does occur.

Habitat

Most fossorial of the Iberian voles with preferences for open habitats and ground sufficiently loose and deep for digging. In wide areas of the Iberian Peninsula it is the only representative of the genus *Microtus*. Altitudinal distribution ranges from sea level to 2250 m in the Sierra Nevada. Restricted to the Mediterranean climate area, it tolerates more adverse temperatures and drought than other *Microtus* species.

Population status

Populations stable with no cyclic fluctuations over the years. Since it is an agricultural pest at higher densities (up to 400/ha) it is controlled in some areas. Control measures can drastically affect local populations.

International legal & conservation status

None.

Other information

Intensive burrowing activity results in a complex system of galleries and burrows. Feeds mainly on grasses and herbaceous plants, occasionally also on fruit trees. Reproduction proceeds throughout the year, with seasonal variations resulting in population fluctuations.

Literature

Niethammer (1982f) – review
Winking (1976)
Winking & Niethammer (1970)

L. J. Palomo

