



DESCRIPTION

Hazel dormice have golden brown fur and a bushy tail.

BEHAVIOUR

They are one of the few mammals that hibernate, from late October to April.

TYPICAL HABITATS

Deciduous woodland. The ideal habitat for hazel dormouse is thought to be semi natural ancient woodland with mixed hazel coppice. Dormice use hedgerows to travel and may live in these.

RANGE

Found mostly in southern and central England and Wales. Not present in Scotland.

FIELD SIGNS

Nests

Dormice will build nests in hazel woodland and are found in tree holes and amongst dense thorny scrub and hedgerows. They are 10-15cm in diameter woven in low growing shrubs. Dormouse nest tubes are available from The Mammal Society.

Feeding signs

Small rodents all open hazel nuts by nibbling a relatively neat round hole in the shell. Squirrels and birds split the shell completely in half or make jagged holes in it.

Dormouse chewed hazel nuts have a smooth inner rim with tooth marks at an angle to the hole on the nut surface.

