



Hazel Dormouse

Muscardinus avellanarius

Quick facts

Order Rodentia

Conservation status

GB *Vulnerable*

RE CE E **V** NT LC DD

England *Vulnerable*

Scotland *N/A*

Wales *Vulnerable*

Global *Least concern*

GB trend *Declining*

Size body 60 - 90 mm; tail

57 - 68 mm

Weight 15 - 26 g, up to

43 g before hibernation

Life span up to 5 years

The hazel dormouse has orange-yellow fur and has a distinctively thick, furry tail. It occurs mainly in the southern counties of England, especially Devon, Sussex, and Kent, and there are scattered populations in the Lake District and Wales.

Habitat

Deciduous woodland and overgrown hedgerows. Lives at low population densities (around 1/10th as abundant as bank voles or wood mice in same habitat).

Behaviour

Nocturnal. Hibernates through winter until April or May. Lives amongst tree branches and rarely comes to ground level. Rests during day in a nest, often in hole in tree, abandoned bird nest, or nest box. Enters torpor to save energy in periods of poor weather or food shortage.

Diet & Feeding

Flowers, pollen, fruits, insects, and nuts.

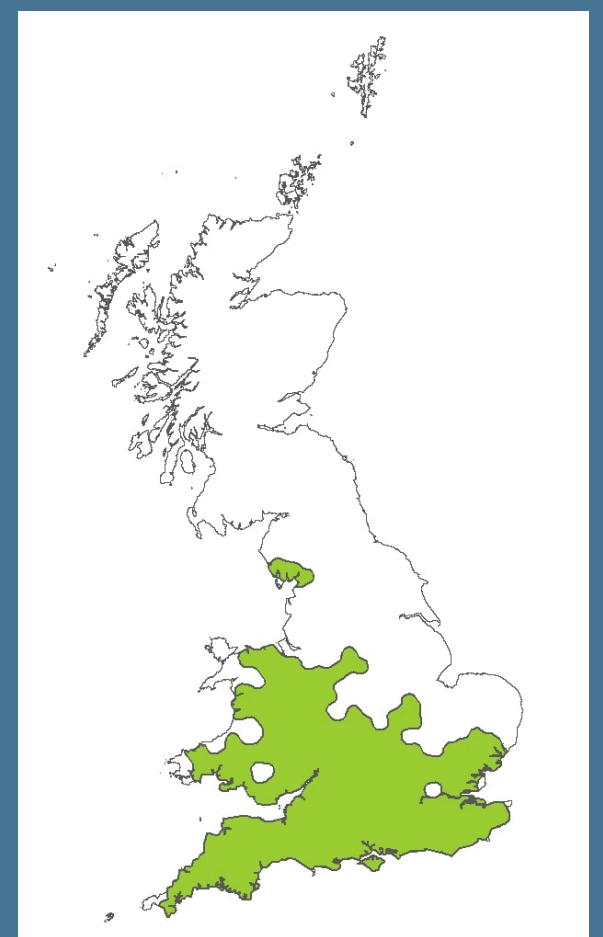
Reproduction

1 or occasionally 2 litters of around 4 young per year. Young are independent at 6 - 8 weeks of age. Breeding season and success heavily depends on weather.

Conservation & Threats

Strictly protected by law. Dormice have declined in the 21st century. Threats include loss and fragmentation of ancient woodland, climate change, suspension of coppicing. Requires diverse habitat with several species of tree and shrub - careful coppice management and nest boxes can provide this. Reintroduction is often suggested, but the process is complicated.

Range



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