

# *Tamias sibiricus*



| Taxon                                   | Family / Order / Class / Phylum/           |
|---|--|
| <i>Tamias sibiricus</i> (Laxmann, 1769) | Sciuridae / Rodentia / Mammalia / Chordata |

## COMMON NAMES (English only)

Siberian chipmunk  
Asian chipmunk

## SYNONYMS

*Eutamias sibiricus* Laxmann, 1769

## SHORT DESCRIPTION

A small, diurnal and omnivorous terrestrial squirrel ( $\approx 100$ g) living exclusively in forests. Its fur is characterised by 5 longitudinal black dorsal stripes. It inhabits and reproduces in a burrow where it hibernates from October-November to March-April.

## BIOLOGY/ECOLOGY

### Dispersal mechanisms

Young individuals disperse two to three weeks after emerging from their nest. They burrow near their nest, up to one or two hundred meters away. Adults are extremely sedentary: male home range ( $\approx 1$  ha) is twice as large as that of females, with a large overlap.

### Reproduction

Sexual maturity is reached between 8 and 11 months. A female gives birth to one or two litters/yr. (4-5 young on average in captivity). Weaned young (6- 8 weeks old, 40-50 g) leave the nest and disperse.

### Known predators

Domestic cats (*Felis silvestris*), weasels (*Mustela nivalis*) and diurnal raptors (*Buteo buteo*) feed upon them.

### Resistant stages (seeds, spores etc.)

Hibernation (5 to 6 months).

## HABITAT

### Native (EUNIS code)

F: Heathland, scrub and tundra habitats, G: Woodland and forest habitats and other wooded land

### Habitat occupied in invaded range (EUNIS code)

F: Heathland, scrub and tundra habitats, G: Woodland and forest habitats and other wooded land, I2: Cultivated areas of gardens and parks.

### Habitat requirements

The native habitats of the Siberian chipmunk contain a wide range of geographical areas with different climatic conditions, including continental and oceanic forests. Deep soils and the presence of stumps are important for the establishment of their burrow.

## DISTRIBUTION

### Native Range

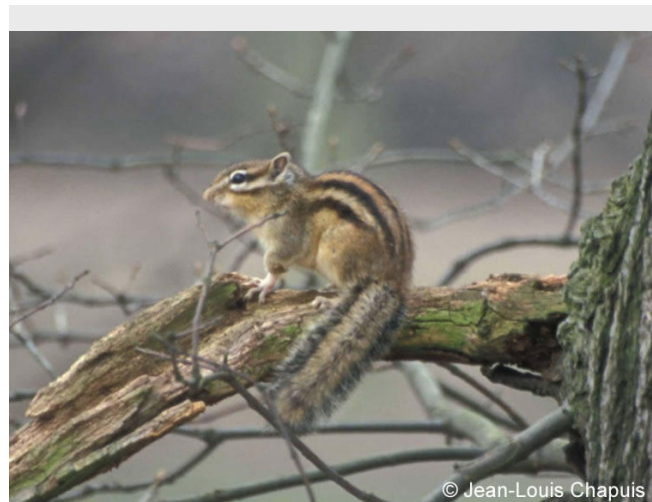
From northern European Russia across Asia as far as China, Korea, and Japan (Hokkaido).

### Known Introduced Range

France (11 populations), Germany (6), Italy (3), Belgium (3), Netherlands (1), Switzerland (1). Presence reported in Denmark and England.

### Trend

Populations are stable or fluctuate (Belgium); in some sites in France, populations are increasing.

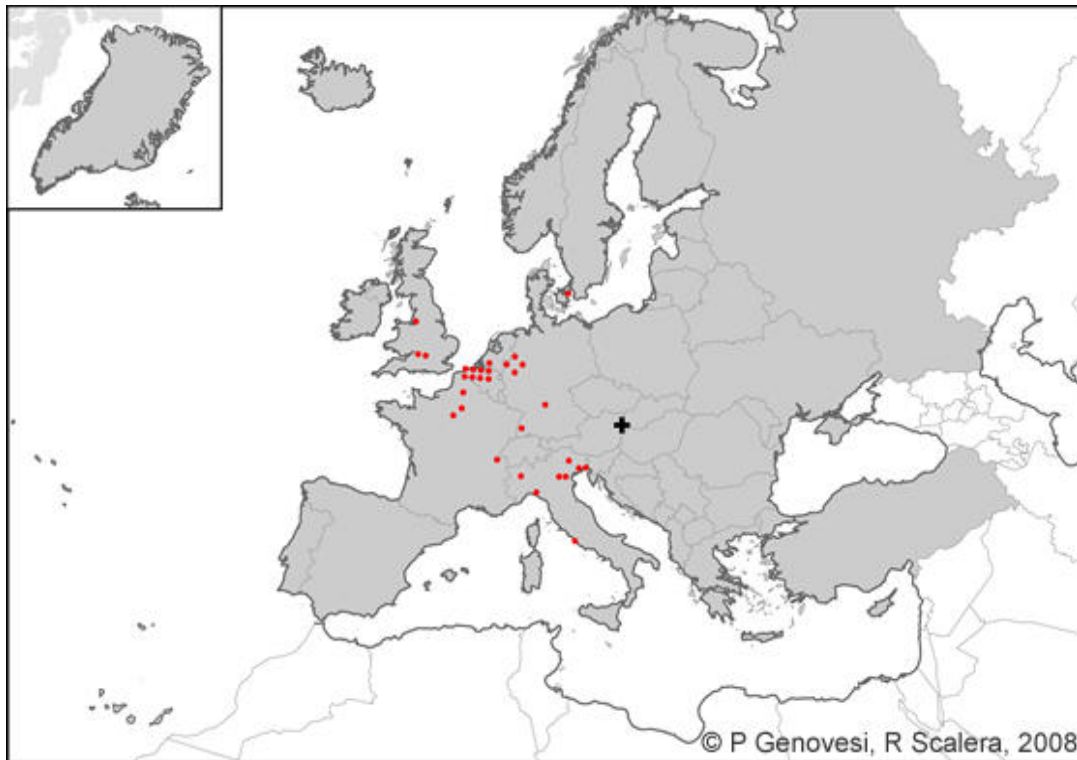


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*Eutamias sibiricus* is a small terrestrial squirrel.

Photo: Jean-Louis Chapuis

## MAP (European distribution)



### Legend

|   |                  |   |                      |  |              |
|---|------------------|---|----------------------|--|--------------|
|  | Known in country |  | Known in CGRS square |  | Known in sea |
|  | Eradicated       |  | Eradicated           |  | Extinct      |

## INTRODUCTION PATHWAY

Ten populations introduced in France originated from the release of pets, and one population from individuals escaping breeding. In Belgium and the Netherlands individuals have been deliberately introduced in parks.

## IMPACT

### Ecosystem Impact

Unknown. May compete directly (trophic availability) or indirectly (parasitic inter transmission) with native forest rodents, mainly *Sciurus vulgaris*, *Apodemus sylvaticus* and *Clethrionomys glareolus*. Potential impact to ground and burrow nesting birds.

### Health and Social Impact

In France, 33% of chipmunks (n=33) collected in a suburban forest near Paris harboured Spirochete strains of the *Borrelia burgdorferi* group (*B. afzelii*, *B. burgdorferi* ss, *B. lusitaniae*). Infected by larvae, nymphs and more rarely adults of 3 species of ticks: *Ixodes acuminatus*, *I. ricinus* and *Dermacentor reticulatus*. Males are more heavily infected by ticks than females. In suburban forests, could contribute to increased Lyme disease transmission risk.

### Economic Impact

Unknown in Western Europe. In its native area, impacts to grain crops recorded.

## MANAGEMENT

### Prevention

To prohibit the sale of this species in pet shops in order to limit the risk of introduction to other sites.

### Mechanical

Unknown.

### Chemical

Unknown.

### Biological

Unknown.

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Author: J.L. Chapuis

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