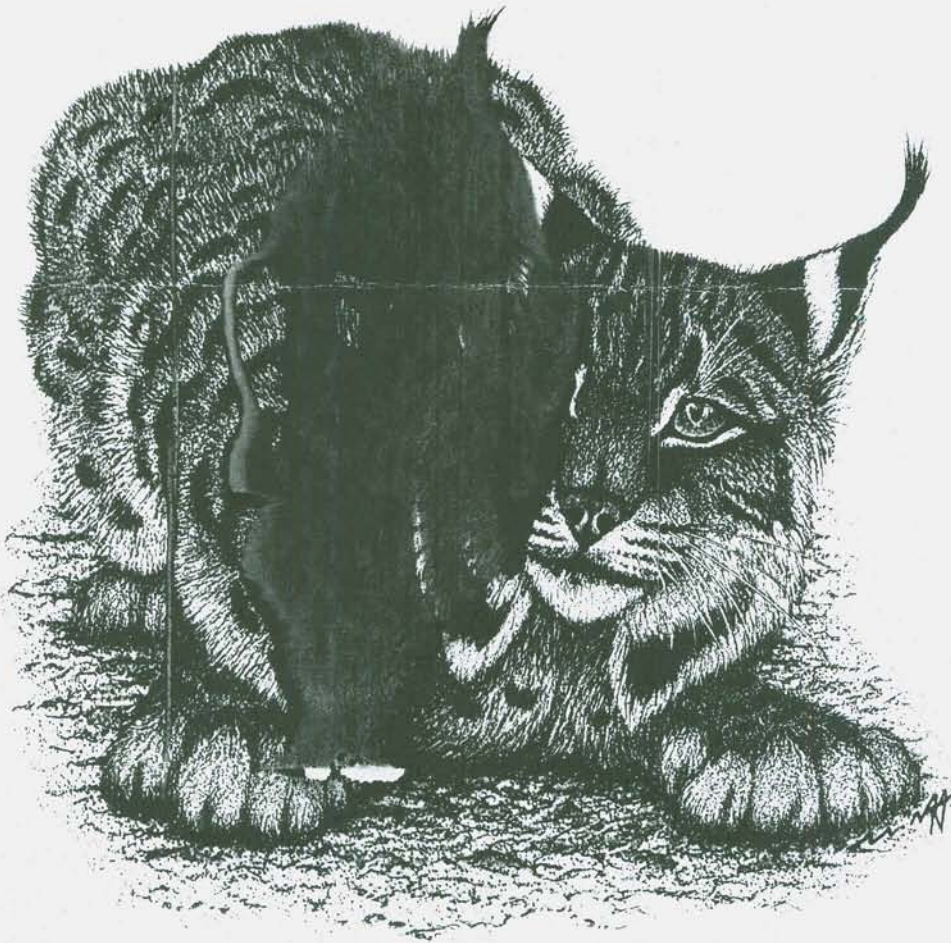


THE ATLAS OF EUROPEAN MAMMALS

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POYSER NATURAL HISTORY

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Atlantoxerus getulus (LINNAEUS, 1758)

Barbary ground squirrel



P. Barrett

AL	-	LT	-
BG	-	LU	-
CZ	Veverka berberská	LV	Ziemeļāfrikas zemesvāvere
DE	Atlashörnchen	MK	-
DK	-	MT	-
EE	Magriibi orav; Argaaria suslik	NL	Barbarijse grondeekhoorn
ES	Ardilla moruna	NO	-
FI	Marokonorava	PL	Pręgowiec berberyjski
FO	-	PT	-
FR	Ecureuil de Barbarie	RO	-
GR	-	RU	Магрибская белка
HR	-	SE	Atlasekorre
HU	Észak-afrikai földimókus	SI	-
IR	-	SK	-
IS	-	TR	-
IT	-	YU	-

Distribution

World: native to North Africa: Morocco, Grand and Middle Atlas south to Agadir and north edge of Sahara, north-west Algeria.

Europe: introduced to Fuerteventura, Canary Islands.

Geographic variation

Monotypic species.

Habitat

The species is well adapted to stony environments, mountain slopes and open country, but also a wide array of agricultural habitats, where its presence is favoured by stone walls where it can seek refuge. It does not enter irrigated fields.

Population status

Initial rapid growth resulted in c. 200000 or even more individuals but was followed by a considerable reduction of its numbers. However, the squirrel is now more evenly distributed throughout the entire island.

International legal & conservation status

None.

Other information

The species was first introduced to the Canary Islands

in 1965 as a single mating pair from North Africa. It does not seem to provoke any serious economic or ecological damage. The eradication of this species is now quite impossible; nevertheless every attempt has been made to prevent its dispersion to other islands of the Archipelago.

Literature

Machado Carrillo (1985)

G. Amori & A. Machado Carrillo