

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

Siberian Chipmunk



Invasive species alert for: *Tamias sibiricus* (Laxmann, 1769)

Common name(s): Siberian chipmunk, Asian chipmunk

Why the concern? May compete directly with the native red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*) for resources and also impact on ground and burrow nesting birds. Risk of slight increase to lyme disease transmission if a population becomes established.

What does it look like? It is a small (adult about 100g body weight) squirrel-like animal with general sandy to reddish brown coat and a long bushy brown-grey tail. It is distinguished from other chipmunk species by having five dark longitudinal stripes separated by lighter zones of the same width down its back from head to rump (one central and two lateral lines at either side). Juveniles and adults are only distinguishable by size.

Where might I see it? In introduced areas it is largely seen in woodland and forest habitats, parklands and gardens. It requires deep soil and the presence of tree stumps for establishment of a burrow. In its native range (North European Russia to China, Korea and Japan) it occupies a variety of climatic conditions and geographic areas.

****Siberian chipmunks do not make ideal pets. They can escape easily and are difficult to contain****

Report any sightings to
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www.invasivespeciesireland.com

