

Bank vole

Myodes glareolus

Invasive: Medium impact

Species profile

- Habitat:** Terrestrial. Prefers habitats with dense undergrowth such as deciduous woodland and hedgerows.
- Distribution in Ireland** Common in the southern half of the country.
- Status:** Established.
- Family name:** Cricetidae.
- Reproduction:** Breeding season from March to April and September to October. Gestation lasts 19-20 days for first pregnancy with subsequent pregnancies lasting 19-25 days.

Identifying features

- Colour:** Chestnut-brown, with the underside of their tail lighter in colour. Juveniles are grey-brown in colour.
- Size:** Ranging from 79-117mm.
- Tail length:** Half the length of the head and body.



Length of a bank vole (79-117mm) - Shutterstock



Bank vole
Shutterstock



Bank vole showing its white underside - Shutterstock



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Threats

In mainland Europe, bank voles are considered a minor pest in the commercial forestry plantations.

Similar species

- At a quick glance it may be confused with other small rodent species such as mice. However, the bank vole has a blunt nose, shorter tail and more rounded ears.



Wood mouse – (*Apodemus sylvaticus*)- Shutterstock



Bank vole showing chestnut brown colouring
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An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



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View Ireland's distribution of this
species on <http://maps.biodiversityireland.ie>

National Biodiversity Data Centre fact sheet.
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