
Phylogeography – Session 2

Genetic structure and origin of remnant red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris* L.) populations in the south of England

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The Eurasian red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*) is an emblematic species for conservation and represents a good example of the negative effect the impact of alien introductions. Indeed, red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*) populations in the UK have experienced a dramatic decline over the last 60 years due to habitat loss and the spread of the “red squirrel parapox” virus following the introduction of the grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*). Currently, red squirrel populations in the UK are highly fragmented and need to be closely monitored in order to assess their viability and the success of conservation efforts. The situation is even more dramatic in the south of England, where it survives only on islands where the grey squirrel is absent, and the Isle of Wight is its main stronghold. Using the D-loop, we investigate the genetic diversity and the putative ancestry of the squirrels on three islands from the South of England (Brownsea Island, Furzey Island and the Isle of Wight) in order to infer their conservation status.

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Jens Jacob, Jana Eccard (Editors)

6th International Conference of Rodent
Biology and Management
and
16th Rodens et Spatium

Potsdam, Germany, 3-7 September 2018

Book of Abstracts



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