



Siberian Chipmunk

(*Tamias sibiricus*)

Also called the common chipmunk. Originated in Siberia and Eastern Asia (China, Korea, Japan). It has been sold in Europe as a pet since the 1960s.

Description

- A small squirrel, weighing approximately 100 grams
- Brown to beige fur, with five black or dark-brown stripes on the back, light coloured fur on the underside
- No sexual dimorphism
- Lifespan estimated at approximately three years in the wild, eight years in captivity

Ecology and reproduction in its original environment

- Forest habitats (hardwood or conifer), woods and copses, urban parks
- Diurnal and solitary
- Simple burrow with only one entry, in which the chipmunk hibernates from October-November to February-March
- Sexually mature at age of one year, gestation period of 30 days, one to two litters per year with three to five young in each litter, in April-May and July-August
- Feeds on nuts (acorns, chestnuts, hazelnuts, etc.) in the fall, seeds of herbaceous plants, fruit and insects in the spring and summer
- Carries the bacteria causing Lyme disease

Documentation

- Chapuis J.-L., 2005. Range in France of a naturalised pet, the Siberian chipmunk (*Tamias sibiricus*). *Revue d'écologie*, 60:239-253. (In French)
- Chapuis J.-L., Gerriet O, Losinger-Chabod I. et Pisanu B., 2018. Management of invasive alien species and the case of squirrels in France. *Faune Sauvage*, n°321. (In French)
- Chapuis J.-L. & Pisanu B., 2017. National list of natural heritage. National Museum of Natural History. (In French) https://inpn.mnhn.fr/espece/cd_nom/61204/tab/fiche

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Classification

Order	Rodentia
Family	<i>Sciuridae</i>
Genus	<i>Tamias</i>
Species	<i>T. sibiricus</i> (Laxmann, 1769)

