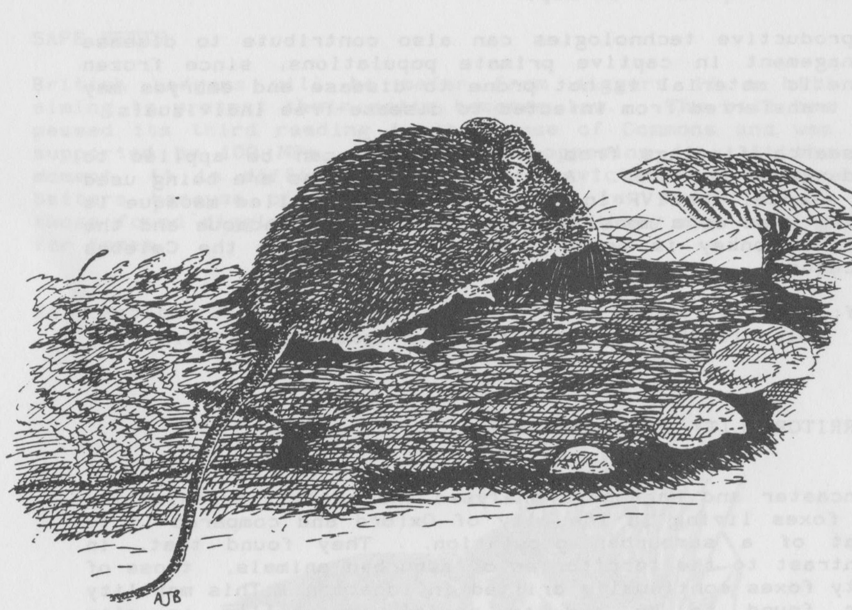
ARBOREAL WOODMICE?

Santos and Telleria have studied factors affecting arboreal feeding activity in wintering woodmice. The experiment took place in woodland in central Spain. It involved monitoring mouse foraging at feeding stations on branches, trunks and the ground baited with acorns. The results showed that acorn consumption on branches was not related to mouse population density but was correlated with food accessibility. The authors concluded that there are morphological constraints limiting tree foraging by woodmice, although the animals are capable of arboreal feeding when food is scarce.

Ref: Santos, T. and Telleria, J.L.
Zeitschrift fur Saugetierkunde. 56 (1) 1991.



FIELDWORK UPDATE

DORMOUSE WALK, GILLAMOOR, 24/3/91

Participants:

Kate Fuller
Geoff Oxford
Andrew Walker
Mary Youngman

Site:

Wood at Gillamoor, near Kirbymoorside

Notes:

The object of the walk was to assess the wood's suitability as dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) habitat and to search for any signs of these animals, with a view to the possible relocation of the YMG's dormouse boxes presently sited at Rievaulx Terraces.

The wood seemed a favourable habitat for dormice, being ancient with signs of recent coppicing and containing abundant hazel and honeysuckle. Stripped honeysuckle was found which may possibly have been the work of dormice. A number of characteristically nibbled hazelnut shells were collected and were compared with shells of nuts eaten by captive dormice. It was concluded that some of the nuts may have been eaten by dormice, although many appeared to have been eaten by woodmice.

Deer slots were observed and a bottle was found containing the remains of at least seven shrews and two mice.

In conclusion, Gillamoor Wood seems worthy of further investigation.

DORMOUSE BOX CHECK, RIEVAULX TERRACES, 7/4/91

Participants:

Kate Fuller
Anne Hanson
Steven Towse

Site:

Woodland at Rievaulx Terraces, near Helmsley