Pallas's squirrel, *Callosciurus erythraeus*

**Overview**

Short description of *Callosciurus erythraeus*, Pallas's squirrel

A diurnal, rather vocal tree squirrel of the 'beautiful squirrel' family, most active at dawn and towards dusk. It is similar in size to red squirrel but lacks ear tufts. Its chest and belly are mainly rich mahogany red, its back olive-brown and its chin, neck, legs and feet grey. The bushy grey/brown tail has a whitish tip.

**Description of *Callosciurus erythraeus*, Pallas's squirrel status in GB**

Pallas’s squirrel has not been recorded in the wild in GB.

**Habitat summary: *Callosciurus erythraeus*, Pallas’s squirrel**

The species occurs in forest, parks and gardens.

**Overview table**

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<th>Environment:</th>
<th>Terrestrial</th>
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<td>Species status:</td>
<td>Non-Native</td>
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<td>Native range:</td>
<td>Indo-China</td>
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<td>Functional type:</td>
<td>Herbivore</td>
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<td>Date of first record:</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
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**Invasion history: *Callosciurus erythraeus*, Pallas's squirrel**

**Origin**

This squirrel is native to Southeast Asia, where it occurs from Bhutan and Assam to Taiwan and the Malay Peninsula. The invaded range includes France originating from the northwest of the native range, in Assam or Myanmar.

**First Record**

There are no known records in the wild from GB.

**Pathway and Method**

There are no known records in the wild from GB. Elsewhere, pathways have been escape from captivity or deliberate release for ornamental reasons.

**Species Status**

Pallas’s squirrels have been introduced to Japan, Hong Kong, Argentina, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Italy. Non-native populations are widespread in Japan, from multiple releases that began in the 1950s. Pallas’s squirrels were introduced to Luján, Argentina, in 1970 and have spread rapidly. The species is regarded as invasive in Japan and potentially invasive in Argentina and Europe. A population in Belgium has been eradicated at a cost of over 200,000€.

**Ecology & Habitat: *Callosciurus erythraeus*, Pallas’s squirrel**

**Dispersal Mechanisms**

The range in Japan has spread to 304 sq km in 52 years and spread has been faster in Argentina (1340 sq km in 40 years). In France, those introduced to Cap d’Antibes in the late 1960s expanded to cover 18 sq km in 40 years. In some countries spread has been aided by translocations or hindered by busy roads. Whereas spread has been exponential, diffusion coefficients are low (0.08-0.20 kmyr in Antibes, 0.05-0.61 kmyr in Argentina).
Reproduction
Pallas's squirrels raise their young in nests built in trees. They breed all year but litters contain only one or two young. Females often solicit mating from four or more males.

Known Predators/Herbivores
There are no known predators in the invaded range.

Resistant Stages
None.

Habitat Occupied in GB
There are no known records in the wild from GB.

Distribution: *Callosciurus erythraeus*, Pallas’s squirrel
There are no known records in the wild from GB.

Impacts: *Callosciurus erythraeus*, Pallas’s squirrel

Environmental Impact
Pallas’s squirrels remove bark from trees to drink sap and have been reported to damage trees in parks and gardens. In their native range in China and Taiwan, there has been significant damage to conifer plantations. Their range expansion is reported to be displacing native squirrels in Japan and France.

Health and Social Impact
Pallas’s squirrels may carry non-native macroparasites but no threats to human health have been identified.

Economic Impact
Damage to telephone cables has been reported but the main economic impact is damage to forestry.

References & Links: *Callosciurus erythraeus*, Pallas’s squirrel

Identification

Biology, ecology, spread, vectors


Management and impact


General

