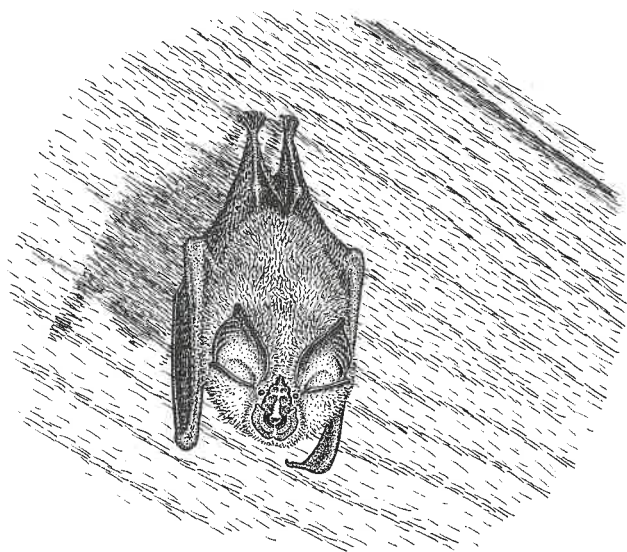


Rhinolophus hipposideros (BECHSTEIN, 1800)



P. Twisk

Lesser horseshoe bat

AL	Lakuriqnate	LU	Kleng Hufeisennues
	hundepatkua i vogel	LV	-
BG	Малък подковонос	MK	Мал потковичар
CZ	Vrápenec malý	MT	Farfett il-Lejl tan-Naghla Żghir; Rinolofu Żghir
DE	Kleine Hufeisennase	NL	Kleine hoefijzerneus
DK	Lille hestekonæse	NO	Liten hesteskonese
EE	-	PL	Podkowiec mały
ES	Murciélago pequeño de herradura	PT	Morcego-de-ferradura-pequeno
FI	Kääriöhevosenkenkäyökkö	RO	Liliacul-cu-nas-potcoavă-mic
FO	-	RU	Мальтй подковонос
FR	Petit rhinolophe	SE	Dvärghästskonäsa
GR	Μικρορινόλοφος	SI	Mali podkovnjak
HR	Mali potkovnjak	SK	Podkovár krpátý
HU	Kis patkósdenevér	TR	Küçük nal burunlu yarasa
IR	Ialtóg crú-shrónach	YU	Мали потковичар
IS	Dvergskeifa		
IT	Ferro di cavallo minore		
LT	Mažasis pasagnosis		

Distribution

World: mainly western Palaearctic, from Ireland east to Kashmir, south to north-western Africa, and through western Arabia to Ethiopia and Sudan.

Europe: widely distributed through western, central, and southern Europe.

Geographic variation

Taxonomic allocation of several populations is unclear, and from two up to seven subspecies are recognized by different authors. Evidence of variation in size across Europe, which may be related to variation in local climatic conditions.

Habitat

Originally roosted in caves throughout the year, now more frequently roosts in buildings during the summer months. Makes extensive use of night roosts, which are often small outbuildings or caves. Recorded from sea level up to 2000 m altitude. Forages within or along the edges of broadleaf deciduous woodland and riparian vegetation. Where habitat is fragmented, hedgerows and other linear landscape features, such as tree lines, are important commuting routes and foraging areas. Preys mainly on Diptera, Lepidoptera, and Neuroptera. Sedentary; winter and summer roosts usually within 5–10 km. Longest recorded movement 153 km.

Population status

Although widespread, many authors have reported population declines over the past fifty years, notably in the more northern parts of its range, such as Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany and Poland. In some cases these declines have resulted in the extinction of previously healthy populations, such as in the Netherlands (1983). Vulnerable across most of its present range, although populations in areas where roosts are protected appear to have stabilized or started to recover.

International legal & conservation status

Bern Convention, Appendix II.

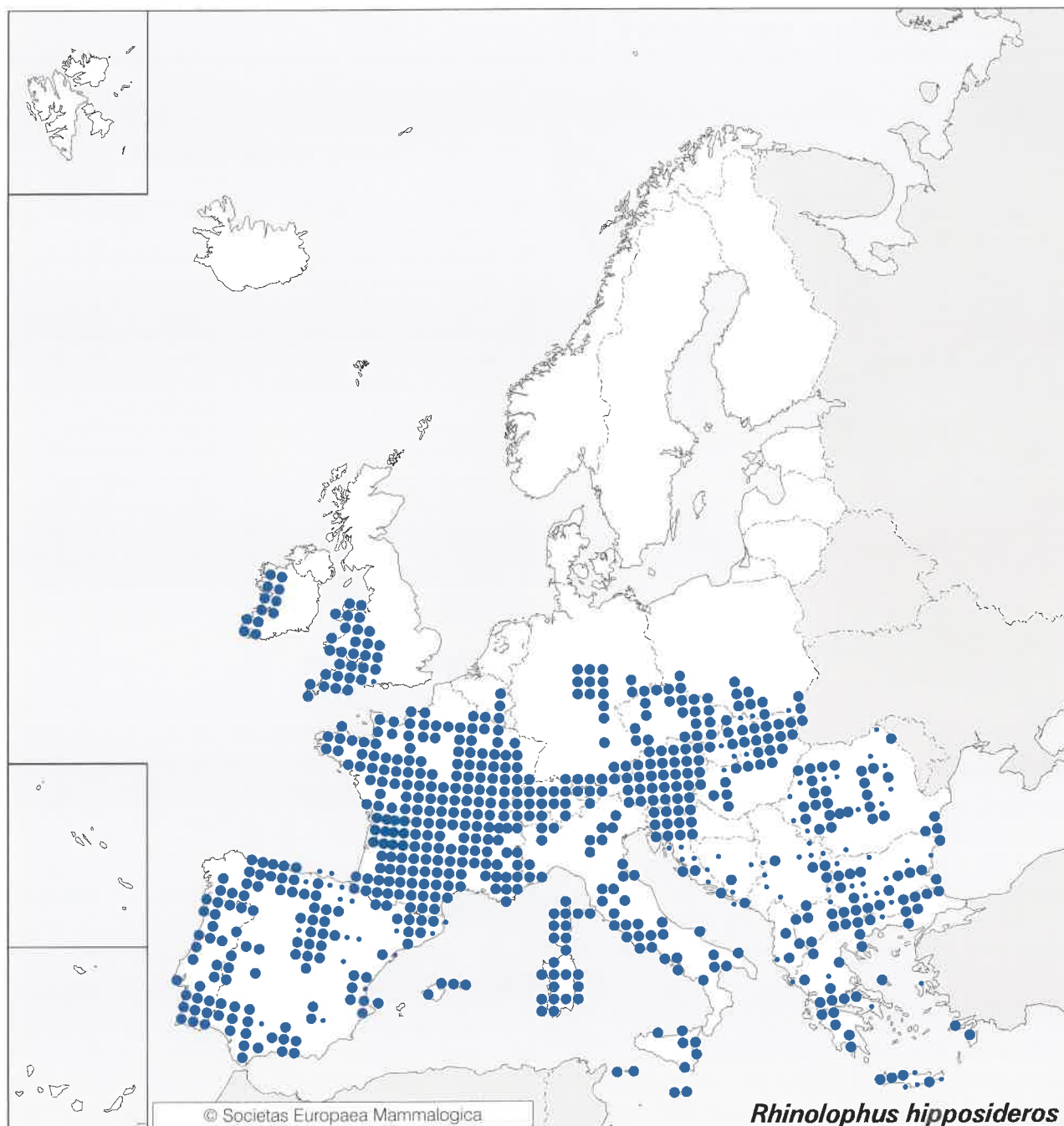
Bonn Convention, Appendix II.

EU Habitats & Species Directive, Annex II & Annex IV.

IUCN Red List, Vulnerable.

Other information

Conspicuous in both summer and winter roosts, and thus highly sensitive to intentional or unintentional disturbance. Dereliction or renovation of old buildings may also result in the loss of suitable roosting sites. Removal of continuous linear landscape features may isolate colonies from potential foraging areas.



Literature

- Beck (1995)
Kokurewicz (1990)
Koopman (1994)
Pir (1996)
Roer (1984)
van Vliet & Mostert (1997).

H. W. Schofield