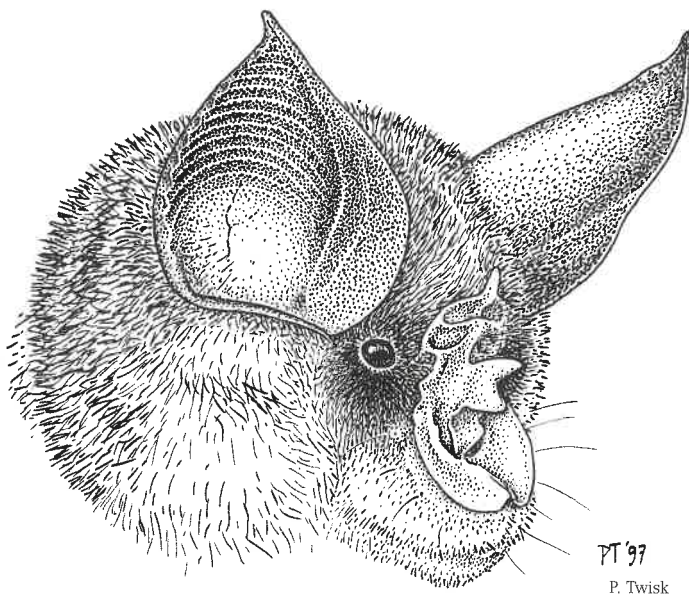


# *Rhinolophus mehelyi* MATSCHIE, 1901



## Mehely's horseshoe bat

|                                    |                                  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| AL -                               | LT -                             |
| BG Подкованос на Мехели            | LU Mehely-Huffeisennues          |
| CZ Vrápeneč Mehelyův               | LV -                             |
| DE Mehely-Hufeisennase             | MK Мехелиев потковичар           |
| DK Mehelys hesteskonøse            | MT -                             |
| EE Meheli sagarnina                | NL Mehely's hoefijzerneus        |
| ES Murciélago mediano de herredura | NO Mehelyhesteskonese            |
| FI Mehelynehevosenkenkäyökkö       | PL Podkowiec średni              |
| FO -                               | PT Morcego-de-ferradura-mourisco |
| FR Rhinolophe de Mehely            | RO Liliacul-lui-Méhely           |
| GR Ρινόλοφος του Mehely            | RU Подкованос Мегели             |
| HR Meheljev potkovnjak             | SE Mehelys hästskonåsa           |
| HU Méhely-patkósdenevér            | SI Mehelyjev podkovnjak          |
| IR -                               | SK -                             |
| IS -                               | TR -                             |
| IT Ferro di cavallo di Mehely      | YU Тамнооки потковичар           |

Confusion with morphologically similar species, particularly *R. euryale*, has obscured its range in certain regions.

## Distribution

**World:** North Africa and southern Europe through Asia Minor to Transcaucasia and western Iran.

**Europe:** the range probably discontinuous, with populations in central and southern Iberia, southern France, Balkan peninsula, south-eastern Romania, the Caucasus, and some large Mediterranean islands.

## Geographic variation

The subspecies *R. mehelyi carpetanus* Cabrera, 1904 (Iberian peninsula) and *R. m. tunetae* Deleuil & Labbé, 1955 (northern Africa) are not accepted by most authors. The species is, therefore, considered to be monotypic.

## Habitat

Exclusively a cave-dwelling bat associated with Mediterranean and sub-Mediterranean climates. During parturition it is often found in dense colonies shared with other species, such as *Myotis myotis*, *M. blythii*, and *Miniopterus schreibersii*. Hibernates in less dense, sometimes large colonies, which may also include individuals of other species. Roosting requirements vary throughout the year, forcing it to make migrations between roosts. Movements of up to 90 km recorded. Foraging behaviour unknown.

## Population status

Seems to be almost extinct in France and has declined in various parts of its range.

## 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

The species' dependence on underground cavities of fairly large dimensions restricts the number of available roosts and concentrates its populations. Disturbance and roost damage are the most serious threats.

## Literature

DeBlase (1972)

Kowalski *et al.* (1986)

Strinati & Aellen (1958)

L. Rodrigues & J. M. Palmeirim

