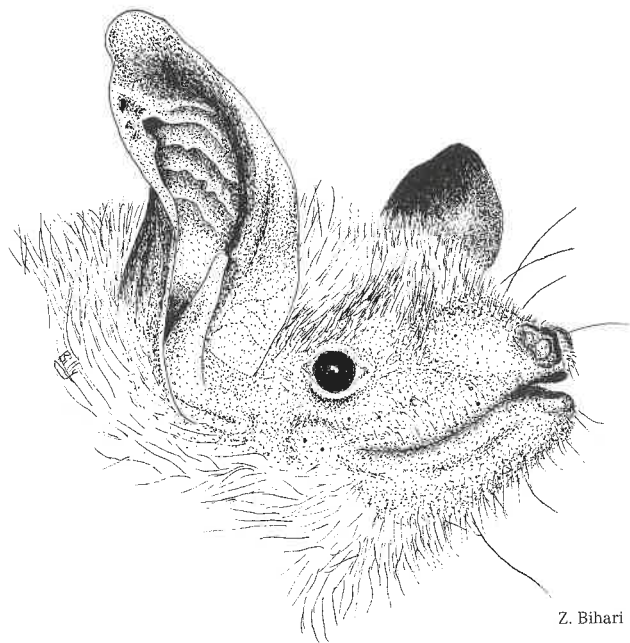


Myotis blythii (TOMES, 1857)



Lesser mouse-eared bat

AL	Lakuriqnate veshmiu i vogel	LÜ	-
BG	Остроух нощник	LV	-
CZ	Netopýr východní	MK	Остроушест ноћник
DE	Kleines Mausohr	MT	Farfett il-Lejl Widnet il-Ġurdien
DK	Lille museøre	NL	Kleine vale vleermuis
EE	Teravkõrv-lendlane	NO	Liten musøre
ES	Murciélago ratonero mediano	PL	Nocek ostrouszny
FI	Hiirenkorvasiippa	PT	Morcego-rato-pequeno
FO	-	RO	Liliacul-mic-cu-urechi-de-șoarece
FR	Petit murin	RU	Остроухая ночница
GR	Μικρομωτίδα	SE	Mindre musöra
HR	Oštrouhi šišmiš	SI	Ostrouhi netopir
HU	Hegyesorrú denevér	SK	Netopier ostrouchý
IR	-	TR	Fare kukali küçük yarasa
IS	-	YU	Мали мишоухи вечерњак
IT	Vespertilio minore		
LT	-		

A sibling species to *Myotis myotis*, but on average smaller, with a shorter and narrower ear with a narrow rounded tip, relatively longer tibia, and generally greyer fur.

Distribution

World: Palaearctic; southern Europe and Asia east to the Himalayas – the very sporadic records farther to the east are rather doubtful.

Europe: northern border reaching roughly 46-48°N, close to 50°N in the Czech Republic and Slovakia; south to Sicily and Greece. Also Malta (J. Borg, in litt.).

Geographic variation

Up to six subspecies distinguished, with two of them probably occurring in Europe: *M. blythii oxygnathus* (Monticelli, 1885) (southern Europe) and the rather controversial *M. b. lesviacus* Iliopoulou-Georgudaki, 1984 (Lesbos island off Anatolia). In continental Europe increasing in size from west to east.

Habitat

A very gregarious species of Asiatic origin, ecologically linked to semi-arid warm and open habitats. In Europe prefers regions with not too dense tree and scrub cover; also in limestone areas and in areas of human settlements. Recorded up to 1000 m altitude. During summer, besides the usually preferred cave roosts, also

in warm attics in the north. Very occasionally in tree holes. Winter roosts in caves and mines with a temperature of 6–12°C. Feeds preferentially on orthopterans hunted in open grass habitats. Occasional migrant; longest recorded movement 600 km.

Population status

A large decline since the 1950s is striking and easily seen in several areas, including central Europe, Israel and even central Asia.

International legal & conservation status

Bern Convention, Appendix II.

Bonn Convention, Appendix II.

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

Other information

Protection of caves and other roosts necessary. Killed during remedial timber treatment.

Literature

- Arlettaz *et al.* (1997)
- Benda & Horáček (1995b)
- Schober & Grimmberger (1989)
- Spitzenberger (1996)
- Stebbins & Griffith (1986)

G. Topál

