

Myotis bechsteinii (KUHL, 1817)



D. Roth

Bechstein's bat

AL	Lakuriqnate veshmiu i Bechsteinit	LT	Bechšteino pelėausis
BG	Бехщайнов ноцник	LU	Bechstein-Flöntermaus
CZ	Netopýr velkouchý	LV	Lielausainais naktssikspārnis
DE	Bechsteinfledermaus	MK	Долгоушест ноћник
DK	Bechsteins flagermus	MT	-
EE	-	NL	Bechsteins vleermuis
ES	Murciélago de Bechstein	NO	Bechsteinflaggermus
FI	Korvasiippa	PL	Nocek Bechsteina
FO	-	PT	Morcego-de-Bechstein
FR	Murin de Bechstein	RO	Liliacul-cu-urechi-late
GR	Μυοτίδα του Bechstein	RU	Длинноухая ночница
HR	Velikouhi šišmiš	SE	Bechsteins fladdermus
HU	Nagyfűlű denevér	SI	Veliki navadni netopir
IR	-	SK	Netopier veľkouchý
IS	-	TR	Büyük kulaklı yarasa
IT	Vespertilio di Bechstein	YU	Дугоухи вечерњак

Distribution

World: western and central Europe and Asia Minor to the Caucasus and northernmost Iran.

Europe: from the Iberian Peninsula east to the Ukraine and Moldova. Local populations in southern England, Wales, southern Sweden, and Bornholm mark the northern border of the range.

Geographic variation

None known.

Habitat

Recorded up to 1800 m altitude. The real distribution is very insular, depending on the presence of suitable habitats. Largely restricted to natural, mainly deciduous, forests with a high proportion of old trees; also found in orchards and parks. Highest population density observed in stands of mature beeches and oaks with environmental forestry. Hunts mainly in forests and forest edges, also gleaning its prey from vegetation and the ground. Catches Lepidoptera, Diptera, Planipennia, and also non-flying Arthropoda. In winter found only in very low numbers in underground localities; it may also hibernate in hollow trees. Apparently sedentary; longest recorded movement 35 km.

Population status

Considered rare nearly everywhere, common only in optimal habitats and then its population density may

reach 10 ind./km². Increasing number of records and extending range are probably mainly due to more intensive field research. There is no evidence of changes in numbers of a well known population in Northern Bavaria for the last 15 years.

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

Bird- and bat-boxes are fairly readily accepted, but the protection and wise use of natural old forests is especially important. Lives in separated maternity groups of high genetic relatedness: young females remain in the group, whereas males emigrate.

Literature

Baagøe (in press a) – review

Kerth *et al.* (1995)

Schlapp (1990)

Wolz (1993)

Zuchuat & Keller (1995)

G. Schlapp

