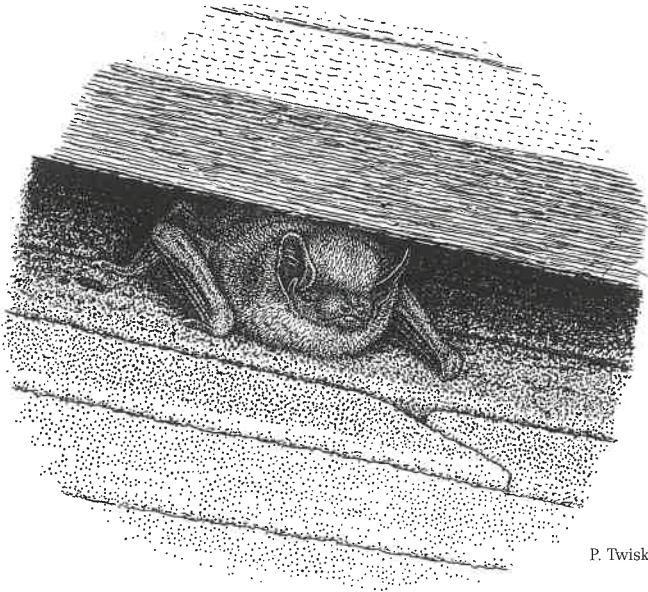


Pipistrellus pipistrellus (SCHREBER, 1774)



P. Twisk

Recent studies have shown that *P. pipistrellus* exists as two forms with different echolocation calls and extensive genetic divergence. These are clearly cryptic species (45 kHz and 55 kHz cryptic species). General statements in the text refer to studies where the two species have not been separated.

Distribution

World: Palaearctic; most of Europe, some parts of south-western Asia and northern Africa.

Europe: widely distributed south of about 63–64°N.

Geographic variation

Pipistrellus p. mediterraneus Cabrera, 1904 described as a subspecies from Spain may be the 55 kHz cryptic species. The 55 kHz bats occur in northern, western and southern Europe, with 45 kHz bats more abundant in central Europe. The two cryptic species are sympatric in the UK, Switzerland, and southern Denmark.

Habitat

Feeds in a wide range of habitats including farmland, open woodland, over lakes and even in urban areas. Often patrols tree lines. The 55 kHz bats are more associated with riparian habitats in the UK than are 45 kHz bats. The 55 kHz pipistrelles feed mainly on chironomids and ceratopogonids, while 45 kHz bats eat mainly psychodid and anisopodid Diptera. Roosts mainly

Common pipistrelle

AL	Pipistrelli i zakonshem	LT	Šikšniukas nykštukas
BG	Малък вечерник	LU	Kleng Flëntermaus
CZ	Netopýr hvízdavý	LV	Pundursikspārnis
DE	Zwergfledermaus	МК	Цуцест лилјак
DK	Dværgflagermus	MT	Pipistrell
EE	Kääbus-nahkhiir	NL	Dwergvleermuis
ES	Murciélago enano	NO	Dvergflaggermus
FI	Kääpiölepakko	PL	Karlik malutki
FO	-	PT	Morcego-anão
FR	Pipistrelle commune	RO	Liliacul-pitic
GR	Ναυονυχτερίδα	RU	Нетопырь-карлик
HR	Patuljasti šišmiš	SE	Dvärgfladdermus
HU	Közönséges törpedenevér	SI	Mali netopir
IR	Ialtóg fheascrach	SK	Netopier hvízdavý
IS	Dvergleð urblaka	TR	Cüce yarasa
IT	Pipistrello nano	YU	Патуљаста слепи мишић

in buildings, though sometimes hibernates in caves in continental Europe.

Population status

Widespread and abundant across its range. Numbers in UK nursery colonies seem to have declined in the past 20 years. Status in other European countries unclear. Population densities of breeding females in northern Britain about 5 ind./km².

International legal & conservation status

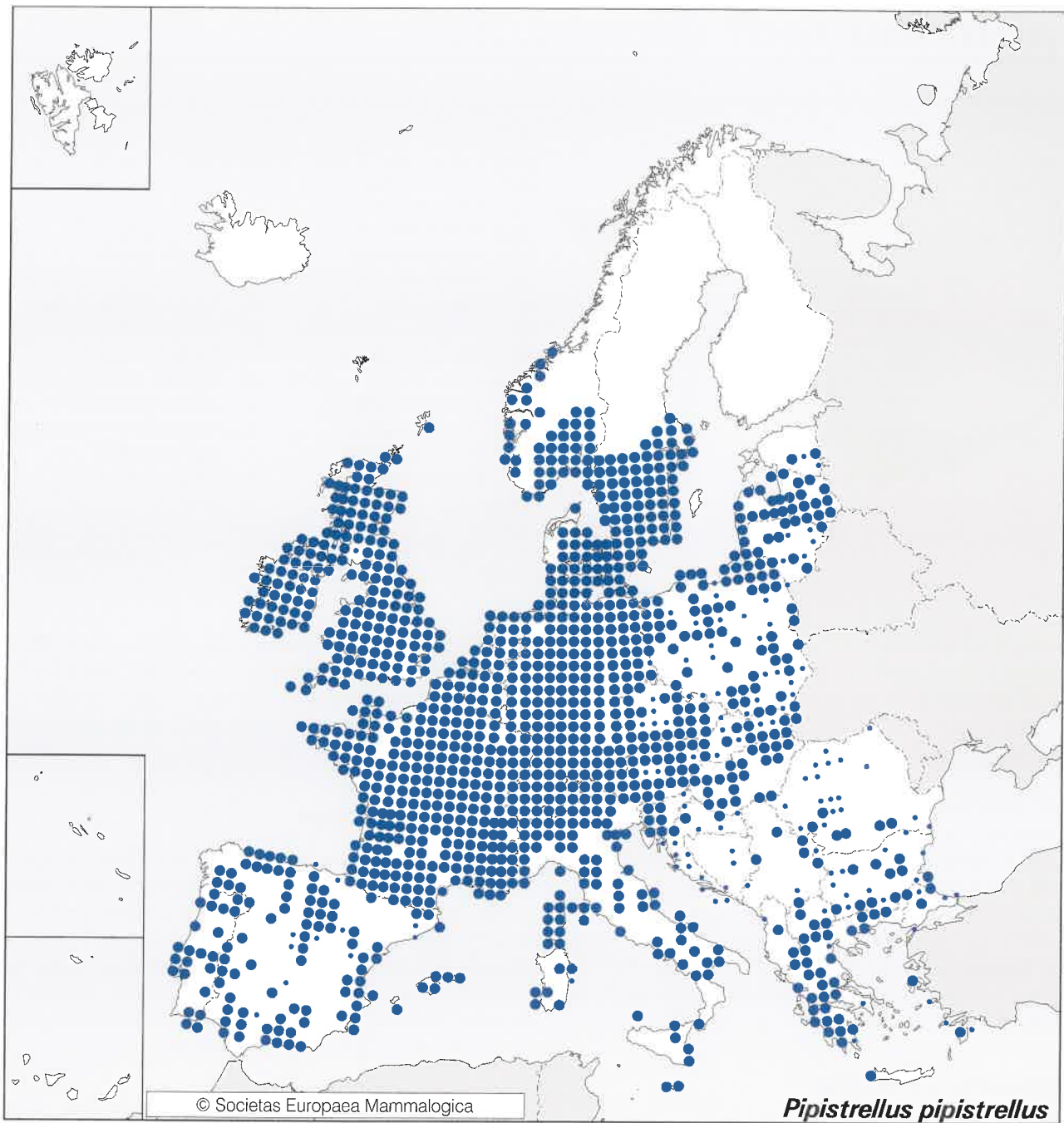
Bern Convention, Appendix III.

Bonn Convention, Appendix II.

EU Habitats & Species Directive, Annex IV.

Other information

Populations may have declined in some areas through poisoning by remedial timber treatment chemicals. Residues of organochlorine pesticides found in maternity colonies in Germany. A population in an industrial area of Sweden declined while a rural population maintained numbers over the same time period. Drainage and water pollution were believed to be the major causes of the decline. Both cryptic species are negatively affected by the addition of treated sewage effluent to rivers.



Literature

- Avery (1991)
Barratt *et al.* (1997)
Boyd *et al.* (1988)
Gerell & Lundberg (1993)
Harris *et al.* (1995)
Jones & van Parijs (1993)

G. Jones