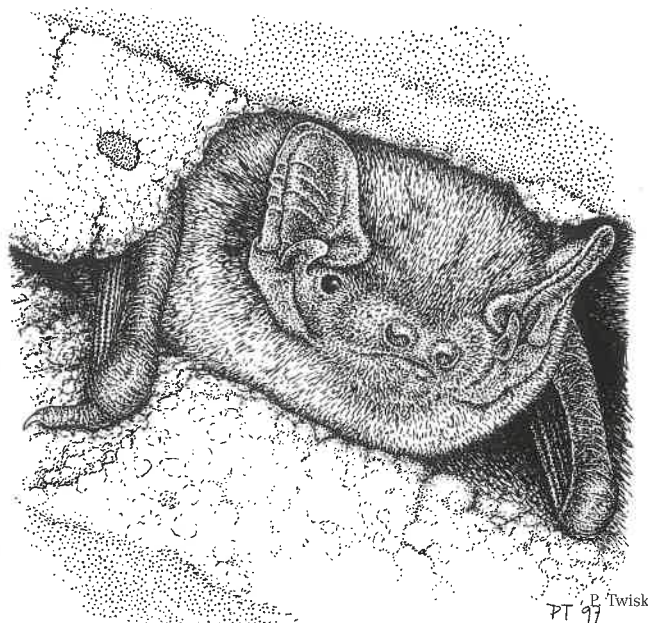


Nyctalus azoreum (THOMAS, 1901)



It has been included in *N. leisleri* by many authors, but recent studies concluded that it should be regarded as a separate species.

Distribution

World and Europe: restricted to the eastern and central islands of the Azores. It has not been recorded on the westernmost islands, Flores and Corvo.

Geographic variation

No geographic variation has been described.

Habitat

Probably the microchiropteran species that forages most often during daytime. Commonly observed hunting in bright light, especially during the afternoon. However, it is still clearly a predominantly nocturnal animal, since the levels of activity recorded at night are many times higher than those recorded during daytime. During this period seems to be particularly active in the elevated areas, inland. At night hunts mostly around street lights in villages, which are in general located on the coast. Known to roost in narrow spaces in buildings, although it is also likely to use other types of shelters.

Population status

Fairly abundant, reaching much higher densities than its larger continental counterpart, *N. leisleri*, probably

Azorean bat

AL -	LT -
BG -	LU -
CZ Netopýr azorský	LV -
DE Azoren-Abendsegler	MK -
DK -	MT -
EE -	NL Azoren rosse vleermuis
ES Murciélago nóctulo de Azores	NO -
FI Azorienisolepakko	PL Borowiec azorski
FO -	PT Morcego dos Açores
FR Noctule des Açores	RO -
GR -	RU -
HR Azorski večernjak	SE -
HU Azori-koraidenevér	SI Azorski mračnik
IR -	SK -
IS -	TR -
IT Nottola delle Azzorre	YU -

due to the absence of pipistrelles on the islands. But in spite of its abundance, the very limited and fragmentary range makes this endemic species vulnerable.

International legal & conservation status

Bern Convention, Appendix II.
Bonn Convention, Appendix II.
EU Habitats & Species Directive, Annex IV.
IUCN Red List, Vulnerable.

Other information

Land cover changes and the substitution of the light bulbs on street lamps by energy efficient bulbs, which attract less insects, could pose problems to its populations.

Literature

Moore (1975)
Palmeirim (1991)
Speakman & Webb (1993)

J. M. Palmeirim

