



Species fact sheet

Myotis alcathoe

Alcathoe whiskered bat

Nymphenfledermaus
Murin d'Alcathoe
Vespertilio di Alcathoe
Vespertil d'Alcathoe

Characteristics

Wingspan: ca. 20 cm
Weight: 4-6 g
Max. age: unknown
Offspring/year: 1

Status

Protection: protected by NCHA
Red List: DD (Data deficient)
National Priority: 4 (moderate)
Other: Target species sparse forest

Synergies: [Bechstein's bat](#), [Brandt's bat](#), [Soprano pipistrelle](#), [Natterer's/cryptic bat](#), [Western barbastelle](#)



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Habitat: Alluvial forest with old trees

Habitat use

Strict forest species with a preference for old deciduous forests, interspersed with swamps and water bodies at lower altitudes up to approx. 500 m above sea level.

Roosts

In the summer months, exclusively in tree hollows of various kinds at greater heights (usually more than 10 m above ground). Regular roost changes, sometimes daily. Winter roosts also in crevices, caves, and tunnels.

Foraging grounds

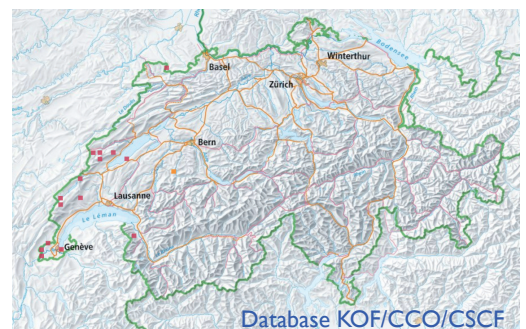
Similar to roosting habitats. Size of foraging areas: 1-10 ha. Foraging grounds usually less than 1 km from the roost.

Flight corridors

Strongly structure-bound species. Due to its strong attachment to the forest, however, this is rarely relevant.

Distribution

Despite targeted searches in various other regions, so far only evidence from western Switzerland. In the summer months mainly at low altitudes of 250 - 500 m.a.s.l., males sometimes up to 800 m.a.s.l. Swarming sites and winter roosts up to 1600 m.a.s.l.



Threats

For a well-founded statement on the threats of the species in Switzerland, the current data on distribution and abundance is extremely sparse. However, the following threats can be assumed:

- Loss of foraging and roosting habitats due to the removal of old trees and too short rotation periods in silviculture
- Lack of regularly distributed, standing deadwood
- Loss of energy due to disturbance caused by cave tourism during hibernation
- Habitat loss/fragmentation due to light and noise pollution (roosts, foraging grounds, flight corridors) from the construction of transportation infrastructure.

Mitigation measures

Monitoring of known nursery roosts, hibernacula and swarming sites, closing of knowledge gaps on biology and distribution by means of further targeted searches, development of action plans. Involvement of the [Regional Coordination Center for Bat Conservation](#) in all measures.

Roosts

Increase in the proportion of old and dead wood in forests at lower altitudes. Protection of known hibernacula in caves by restriction of access during the winter months.

Foraging grounds

Analogous to roost measures. Also, promotion of forest rewetting (synergies with beaver conservation)

Flight corridors

Renouncement of building transportation infrastructure in forest areas with old-growth stands. Where such structures are unavoidable or already exist, mitigation by means of targeted measures indicated (e.g., green bridges, underpasses, etc.).



Literature

- Bohnenstengel et al. (2014). [Rote Liste Fledermäuse, Stand 2011](#). Umwelt-Vollzug 1412.
- Dietz et al. (2018). Bats of Britain and Europe. Bloomsbury Academic, London.
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- Lugon et al. (2017): [Fledermausschutz bei der Planung, Gestaltung und Sanierung von Verkehrsinfrastrukturen-Arbeitsgrundlage](#).
- Mitchell-Jones et al. (2017). [Protecting and managing underground sites for bats, 5th edition](#). UNEP/EUROBATS, Bonn.

Links

- fledermausschutz.ch
- institutions.ville-geneve.ch/fr/cco/pipistrelliticino