



Species fact sheet

Myotis blythii

Lesser mouse-eared bat

Kleines Mausohr

Vespertilio di Blyth

Petit murin

Vespertil ureglia-mieur pitschen

Characteristics

Wingspan: 35-40 cm

Weight: 18-27 g

Max. age: 33 years

Offspring/year: 1

Status

Protection:

protected by NCHA

Red List:

CR (Critically Endangered)

National Priority

I (very high)

Other:

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Synergies: [Greater mouse-eared bat](#), [Greater horseshoe bat](#), [Alpine long-eared bat](#), [Geoffroy's bat](#)



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Habitat use

Roosts

Nursery roosts in large, undisturbed attics. In Switzerland, young are only reared in mixed colonies with the greater mouse-eared bat. Males mostly solitary, often in smaller roosts such as bridge and building crevices. Hibernates mainly in caves and tunnels.

Foraging grounds

Forages for grasshoppers, mainly over extensively used grassland, such as ruderal areas, dry meadows and pastures, lean forage meadows, but also alternating wet meadows. Preference is given to unmown areas with tall vegetation. Size of foraging areas: 10-100 ha. Foraging grounds usually 4-7 km, but sometimes up to 25 km from the roost.

Flight corridors

Strongly structure-bound species, especially in areas with increased light pollution. Flies along forest edges, hedges, water bodies or dark corridors on transit flights in settlement areas. Distances between summer and winter roosts are usually less than 20 km.

Distribution

Limited to warm regions such as the Rhone and Rhine valleys and Ticino. Also occasionally found in caves in the Jura. Population size in Switzerland estimated at 1000-2000 individuals.



Database KOF/CCO/CSCF

Threats

- Loss of roosts due to unaccompanied building works: Renovations, energetic optimization of the building envelope, closure of access points, conversions, use of toxic wood preservatives
- Loss of foraging habitats and lack of food due to intensification of agriculture
- 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)

Mitigation measures

Conservation measures mandatory, highly conservation dependent. Monitoring of known nursery roosts, hibernacula and swarming sites, development of cantonal action plans and closing of knowledge gaps. Involvement of the [Regional Coordination Center for Bat Conservation](#) in all measures.

Roosts

Strengthening of the protection of existing nursery roosts in buildings (inclusion in regional planning acts). Inclusion of the immediate roost surroundings, especially with regard to light pollution. Avoidance of façade lighting on roost buildings in the summer months. Protection of known hibernacula in caves by restriction of access during the winter months.

Foraging grounds

Measures to boost grasshopper populations. Protection and promotion of extensive grassland areas and mosaic-like cultivated landscapes. Avoidance of light pollution outside settlement areas. Avoidance of pesticide use in agriculture.

Flight corridors

Recording, inclusion in regional planning acts, and consistent protection of nocturnal flight corridors between roosts and foraging grounds. Revision, and, where necessary, optimization of lighting regimes and structural corridors near roosts. Synergies with other target species to establish an ecological infrastructure through the settlement area (especially dark corridors).



Preferred prey: *Ensifera*



Foraging habitat: Species rich meadow

Literature

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- Mitchell-Jones et al. (2017). [Protecting and managing underground sites for bats, 5th edition](#). UNEP/EUROBATS, Bonn.
- Voigt et al. (2019). [Guidelines for consideration of bats in lighting projects](#). UNEP/EURO-BATS, Bonn.

Links

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