



Species fact sheet

Myotis mystacinus

Whiskered bat

Bartfledermaus
Murin à moustaches
Vespertilio mustacchino
Vespertil dal barbìs

Characteristics

Wingspan: 19-23 cm
Weight: 3.5-8 g
Max. age: 23 years
Offspring/year: 1

Status

Protection: protected by NCHA
Red List: LC (Least Concern)
National Priority: n (none)
Other: -

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



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Roost in a façade crevice

Habitat use

Roosts

Inhabits mainly crevices in buildings, e.g., behind wall boarding, in roof interspaces and the like. Prefers wood to stone as a substrate. Much less often also bat boxes or tree hollows. Forms colonies of 10-100, rarely up to 300 females. Roosts are changed regularly but are revisited every year. Hibernates mainly in underground caves and tunnels.

Foraging grounds

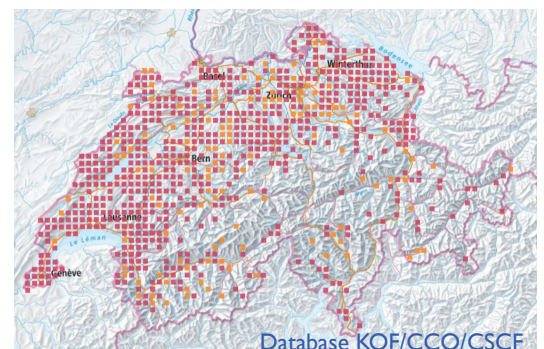
Species of semi-open habitats. Forages along hedges, forest edges, forest paths, in orchards and along tree-lined waters. Size of foraging areas: 1-10 ha. Foraging grounds usually less than 3 km from the roost.

Flight corridors

Strongly structure-bound species, especially in areas with increased light pollution. Flies on transit flights mostly along dark forest edges, hedges, waterways, and dark corridors in settlements. Distances between summer and winter roosts are usually less than 100 km.

Distribution

Widespread at lower altitudes, with an emphasis on the Central Plateau, Jura, and Pre-Alps. Nursery roosts up to 1600 m above sea level (Engadin), foraging individuals up to the tree line.



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 energy due to disturbance caused by cave tourism during hibernation
- Habitat loss/fragmentation due to light and noise pollution (roosts, foraging habitats, flight corridors)

Mitigation measures

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

Roosts

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

Foraging grounds

Conservation and propagation of mosaic-like cultural landscapes and interlocking forest edges. Reduction of light pollution along waterways (promenades, bridges, parks, etc.). Avoidance of large-scale insect control measures on bodies of water (e.g., Bt toxin).

Flight corridors

Recording, inclusion in regional planning acts and consistent protection of nocturnal flight corridors between roosts and foraging habitats. 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).



Foraging habitat



Threat: unaccompanied building works

Literature

- Bohnenstengel et al. (2014). [Rote Liste Fledermäuse, Stand 2011](#). Umwelt-Vollzug 1412.
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- Krättli et al. (2012). [Konzept Artenförderung Fledermäuse 2013-2020](#). Schweizerische Koordinationsstelle für Fledermausschutz.
- 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/ccol
- pipistrelliticino.ch