



Species fact sheet

Myotis nattereri & *crypticus*

Natterer's bat	Characteristics	Status
Fransfledermaus	Wingspan: 25-30 cm	Protection: protected by NCHA
Murin de Natterer	Weight: 5-9 g	Red List: NT (Near Threatened)
Vespertilio di Natterer	Max. age: 17 years	National Priority: I (very high)
Vespertil da Natterer	Offspring/year: 1	Other: -

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

Note: The cryptic bat *Myotis crypticus*, newly described in 2019, is treated here together with the Natterer's bat because nothing is known to date about the ecological differences between the two species.



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Nursery roost in a bat box

Habitat use

Roosts

Even though most known colonies are found in bat and bird boxes and in narrow crevices in buildings and bridges, the species primarily inhabits tree cavities of various kinds (rotting caves, woodpecker caves, trunk cracks). The probably distorted picture is because tree cavity roosts are much more difficult to detect. Forms nursery colonies of 10-50 females. Roosts are changed regularly, sometimes every 2 days. Hibernates mainly in underground caves and tunnels.

Foraging grounds

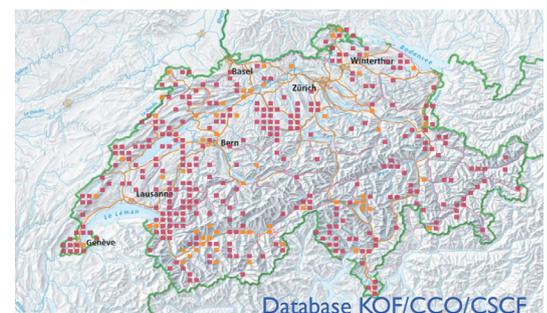
Forages mainly in forests of various structure and composition, but also in semi-open habitats, from the lowlands to above the tree line. Can also search for food in cattle sheds. Size of foraging areas: 1-10 ha. Foraging grounds usually less than 4 km from the roost.

Flight corridors

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

Distribution

Throughout Switzerland, from the lowlands to alpine zones, but nowhere common. Nursery roosts up to 1560 m.a.s.l. (GR), highest acoustic evidence at over 3000 m.a.s.l. (VS).



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
- Habitat loss due to excessive forest regeneration (lack of old wood)
- 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 and propagation measures useful. Conditionally conservation dependent. Monitoring of known nursery roosts, hibernacula and swarming sites, development of cantonal action plans and closing of knowledge gaps, particularly with regard to differences in the distribution and ecology of the two species. 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 wider roost surroundings in conservation actions, especially with regard to light pollution. Avoidance of façade lighting on roost buildings in the summer months. Protection and propagation of hollow trees and deciduous trees with DBH >50 cm. Protection of known winter roosts in caves by restriction of access during the winter months.

Foraging grounds

Protection and propagation of mosaic-like cultural landscapes and interlocking forest edges. Reduction of light pollution near forests. Avoidance of pesticide use in forestry.

Flight corridors

Recording, inclusion in regional planning acts and consistent protection of nocturnal flight corridors between (building) 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).



Roosting and foraging habitat

Adrian Gryciuk (CC BY-SA 3.0 PL)



Threat: Cave tourism during hibernation

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/ccol/pipistrelliticino.ch