



Species fact sheet

Pipistrellus pygmaeus

Soprano pipistrelle

Mückenfledermaus
Pipistrelle pygmée
Pipistrello soprano
Pipistrel pigmeic

Characteristics

Wingspan: 19-23 cm
Weight: 3-6 g
Max. age: 8 Years
Offspring/year: 1-2

Status

Protection: protected by NCHA
Red List: NT (Near Threatened)
National Priority: n (none)
Other: -

Synergies: Whiskered bat, Kuhl's pipistrelle, Common pipistrelle, Nathusius's pipistrelle



Foraging habitat: Tree-lined water course

Habitat use

Roosts

Uses a wide variety of cavities on buildings during the day in summer, e.g. in roof interspaces, shutter cases, façade gaps, behind wall cladding or beams, but also bat boxes and tree cavities. Forms nursery roosts of up to over 300 individuals. Males solitary all year round. Roost changes are possible during the summer, but much rarer than in the common pipistrelle. Also, often on and in buildings in winter. However, probably also hibernates in rock crevices, bat boxes and tree hollows.

Foraging grounds

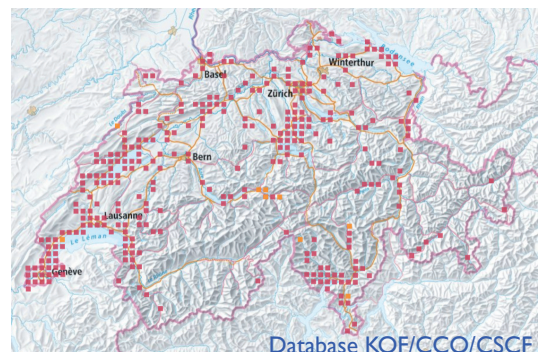
Uses various types of forests and water bodies for foraging, but favors alluvial forests and parks. In contrast to other species of the genus, hardly forages at street lamps. Size of foraging areas: 10-100 ha.

Flight corridors

Seasonal migrations over distances of dozens to hundreds of kms possible. Foraging grounds often more than 1 km from the roost. Tolerates a certain amount of light pollution but prefers darkness. Flight corridors thus of moderate importance.

Distribution

Patchy distribution throughout Switzerland, with concentrations at lower altitudes and near bodies of water. Currently appears to be spreading.



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 habitat due to removal of old deciduous trees in forests, parks, and gardens as well as too short a rotation period and excessive regeneration in forests
- Decline in food supply due to widespread mosquito control measures on bodies of water (e.g. Bti toxin) and often unnecessary use of pesticides in agriculture and private households.

Mitigation measures

Due to the increasing abundance and distribution of the species, no specific measures that go beyond the Nature and Cultural Heritage Protection Act are acutely necessary. However, general measures that also benefit other (bat) species are well suited.

Roosts

Strengthening of the protection of existing nursery roosts (inclusion in regional planning acts). Consultation of the [Regional Coordination Center for Bat Conservation](#) when making structural changes to known roosts.

Propagation old wood and cave trees in forests, gardens and parks.

Foraging grounds

Propagation of riparian woodland along lakes, rivers and streams. Reduction of biocide and pesticide use in bodies of water (Bti toxin), private households and agriculture.

Flight corridors

Synergies with other species to establish an ecological infrastructure through the settlement area (e.g., green spaces and dark corridors).



Roost in a façade crevice, 2 cm wide.

Karl Frärfjord (CC BY NC SA 3.0)

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.
- Krättli et al. (2012). [Konzept Artenförderung Fledermäuse 2013-2020](#). Schweizerische Koordinationsstelle für Fledermausschutz.
- 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.ch