

Rhinolophus hipposideros (Bechstein, 1800) **Lesser horseshoe bat**

Measurements – Head-body length 35-45 (50) mm; Tail length (18) 21-23 (33) mm; Forearm length (34) 37-42,5 mm; Wingspan 192-254 mm; Weight (3) 6-9 (10) g.

Ecology – Like all horseshoe bats, it is found in warm, limestone areas, and forages mainly in forests, woodlands and riparian vegetation.. Roosts almost exclusively in caves and mines all year round, but in summer there are occasional records of bats in buildings, especially in colder climates. Sedentary, the longest recorded move between summer and winter quarters is ca. a hundred kilometres. Preys on Diptera, Lepidoptera and small Neuroptera, but also spiders. Nursery colonies congregate in late spring and give birth to a single young, usually in the second half of June.

Range –Occurs in central and southern Europe (northern limit in Ireland and England), in south-central Asia and in Maghrebian and north-eastern Africa.

In Italy is present on the whole territory.