

***Myotis bechsteinii* (Kuhl, 1817) Bechstein's bat**

Measurements – Head-body length 45-55 mm; Tail length (30) 35-45 (47) mm; Forearm length 39-45 (47) mm; Wingspan 250-290 mm; Weight 7-13,6 g.

Ecology – The species prefers mature mesophilous woodland and forest, especially beech and oak woodland. Also found in parks and gardens. Winter roosts mostly in caves and mines, sometimes cellars, rarely tree holes. The latter are preferred as maternity roosts, as well as bat boxes, where females congregate between the end of April and May. Probably sedentary: the longest recorded distances do not exceed 39 km. The species feeds primarily on Lepidoptera, Diptera and Coleoptera, and also on wingless arthropods it gleans from the vegetation or the ground. Females give birth to one young between the end of June and the beginning of July.

Range – Occurs in southern and central Europe, the northern border of its range being marked by southern Great Britain and Sweden, and in Anatolia, Caucasus and Iran.

In Italy occurs in all regions, except Sardinia.