

Nyctalus lasiopterus (Schreber, 1780) **Greater noctule**

Measurements – Head-body length (78) 84-104 mm; Tail length (51) 55-65 (66) mm; Forearm length (62) 63-69 (70,5) mm; Wingspan 410-460 mm; Weight 41-76 g.

Ecology – A forest bat, occurs especially in broad-leaved forests, but may also be found in coniferous woodland. It roosts almost exclusively in tree holes, but may use bat boxes, stone crevices and sometimes buildings. Probably migrant but there are no recapture data from banded bats. Feeds mainly on large moths and Coleoptera, but small Passerines become seasonally significant in the diet. Females usually give birth to two young, rarely one, in June - July.

Range –Occurs in southern and central Europe, the northern limit of its range being 55° latitude, northern Africa (Morocco, Lybia) and in Asia east to Uzbekistan, throughout Caucasus, northern Iran (Caspian Sea coasts) and Kazakhstan.

In Italy, recent records only concern Tuscany.