

A new bat species for Sardinia: Hypsugo cf. darwinii

The bat fauna of Sardinia is especially interesting thanks to the several endemic taxa discovered on the island in recent years. By sequencing the gene coding for the 16S rRNA from 36 *Pipistrellus* and *Hypsugo* sampled in 17 sites from much of the island, Veith et al. (2011) have identified five lineages. Specifically, besides confirming genetically the occurrence of both *P. pipistrellus* and *P. pygmaeus* (first reported by Russo and Jones (2000) who analyzed their echolocation and social calls), as well as that of *P. kuhlii* and *H. savii*, scientists have also found *Hypsugo cf. darwinii*, which, as they put it, might represent a newly discovered endemic species. This species would add to the endemic *Plecotus sardus*, remarking the biogeographic importance of the island.

Literature:

Russo D. & Jones G. (2000). The two cryptic species of *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* (Chiroptera: Vespertilionidae) occur in Italy: evidence from echolocation and social calls. *Mammalia*, 64: 187-197.

Veith M., Mucedda M., Kiefer A. & Pidinchredda E. (2011). On the presence of pipistrelle bats (*Pipistrellus* and *Hypsugo*; Chiroptera: Vespertilionidae) in Sardinia. *Acta Chiropterologica* 13: 89-99.