

Barbastella barbastellus (Schreber, 1774) **Barbastelle**

Measurements – Head-body length 44-60 mm; Tail length (36) 38-52 (60) mm; Forearm length (31) 36-44 (47,5) mm; Wingspan 240-290 mm; Weight 6-14,2 g.

Ecology – A woodland bat, occurs primarily in forested landscapes, especially where mature stands rich with dead trees are available. Hibernates in caves while in summer roosts in tree cavities (especially cracks and beneath loose bark) and buildings. It is unclear whether it is a migrant or sedentary species because it may commute between summer and winter roosts covering long distances (up to 290 km). Feeds mainly on microlepidopterans and also Tricoptera. Females give birth to one young, rarely two, starting from mid-June.

Range – It occurs throughout Europe until 60° latitude north, and east to Ukraina, Crimea, Turkey and Caucasus. There are also records from Morocco, Canary Islands and, possibly, Senegal. Recorded in most Italian regions, albeit quite rarely observed.