

***Myotis mystacinus* (Kuhl, 1817) Whiskered bat**

Measurements – Head-body length 35-48 mm; Tail length 30-43 mm; Forearm length 32-36 (37,7) mm; Wingspan 190-225 mm; Weight (3) 4-8 g.

Ecology – A forest bat, found in woodlands, urban parks and treed gardens more frequently than its twin species, the Brandt's bat. May also hunt in open habitat and wetland. Winter roosts are caves and mines; summer roosts are buildings, tree holes and bat boxes. Sedentary or occasional migrant, the longest move recorded is 240 km. Preys on Diptera, Arachnida and Lepidoptera. Prey is either caught on the wing or gleaned from substrate. Females give birth usually to one young, exceptionally two, in June-July.

Range –Occurs throughout Europe, except Iceland; in Morocco and Asia, throughout Caucasus, central Asia, Iran, the Himalayan regions and part of China, Korea and Japan. Details on species distribution are likely to be reconsidered at the light of the recent distinction between *Myotis mystacinus* and *Myotis alcaethoe*.

The distribution of the whiskered bat in Italy is not clear because it has been repeatedly confused with Brandt's bat whose morphology is very similar. Seems to be present in all Italian regions.