

Pipistrellus pipistrellus (Schreber, 1774) **Common pipistrelle**

Measurements – Head-body length (32) 36-52 mm; Tail length (20) 24-36 mm; Forearm length 27-32 (35) mm; Wingspan 180-250 mm; Weight 3,5-8,5 g.

Ecology – A generalist species, occurs in a variety of habitats i.e. woodland, farmland, wetland and urban areas. Mainly roosting in buildings, may also use rock crevices, tree holes and bat boxes. Sedentary, but a dispersal move of 800 km is documented. It catches small insects on the wing, such as Diptera, Lepidoptera and Tricoptera. Females give birth to two young, rarely one, between June and July.

Range –Occurs throughout Europe north to 63° N, in Maghreb, Libya and Asia to north-western China.

Although all Italy is included in the species' range, the recent discovery of the cryptic *P. pygmaeus* suggests many records belong to either species.