

Rhinolophus ferrumequinum (Schreber, 1774) **Greater horseshoe bat**

Measurements – Head-body length (50) 56-71 mm; Tail length (30) 35-43 mm; Forearm length (50) 53-61 mm; Wingspan 330-400 mm; Weight 17-34 g.

Ecology – The species is found in warm areas and is associated to patchy, edge-rich landscapes made of woodland interspersed with pastures, and wetlands. Hibernates in caves and mines; summer roosts in buildings where it hangs to the ceiling, or underground sites. Sedentary, may occasionally cover a few hundred kilometres commuting between summer and winter roosts. Adults feed mainly on coleopterans and lepidopterans. Nursery colonies gather in late spring and females give birth to a single young between June and July.

Range – It occurs throughout central Europe (up to southern Great Britain), in the Mediterranean basin, and, in the East, through the Himalayan regions to China, Korea and Japan.
The species is present on the whole Italian territory.