

Rhinolophus mehelyi Matschie, 1901 **Mehely's bat**

Measurements – Head-body length (49) 55-64 mm; Tail length (21) 23-29 (32) mm; Forearm length (46) 49-54 (55) mm; Wingspan 310-340 mm; Weight 10-18 g.

Ecology – Found in warm areas with woodland and scrubland. Roosts in caves and mines both for hibernation and reproduction. Probably sedentary. Feeds especially on moths. Nursery colonies are formed in late spring and females give birth to a single young in June.

Range – Occurs in southern Europe, Maghreb and south-western Asia (western Iran).

In Italy it is found only on Sicily and especially Sardinia, where large colonies are known.