

Myotis blythii (Tomes, 1857) **Lesser mouse-eared bat**

Measurements – Head-body length (54) 58-70 (76) mm; Tail length (45) 54-60 (73) mm; Forearm length (50,5) 52-59 (63,5) mm; Wingspan 350-408 mm; Weight 15-28,5 g.

Ecology – The species forages in steppe, meadows, pastures and species-rich, tall grassland. Winters in caves and mines while maternity roosts are in buildings or warm caves. Probably sedentary, but a 600 km-move is recorded. Feeds mainly on bush-crickets gleaned from the substrate. Females give birth to one young in May-June.

Range – Occurs in southern Europe, in the most southerly regions of central Europe, central Asia, and eastwards to the Himalayas, Mongolia and China.

In Italy it occurs in all regions except Sardinia.