

***Plecotus austriacus* (Fischer, 1829) Gray long-eared bat**

Measurements – Head-body length 41-58 (60) mm; Tail length 37-55 (57) mm; Forearm length (35) 37-45 mm; Wingspan 255-300 mm; Weight 5-14 g.

Ecology – Occurs in areas characterised by warm climate and low to medium altitudes; also in towns. Winters in caves and mines, sometimes bat boxes and tree holes. Summer roosts in buildings or caves and mines, sometimes in tree holes and bat boxes. Probably sedentary, its longest move < 62 km. It preys mainly on noctuid moths and, secondarily, dipterans. Females give birth to a single young in June.

Range – It occurs in central and southern Europe (northern limit at 53°), in Mediterranean and tropical Africa, and, in Palaeartic Asia, Kashmir, Mongolia and western China.

All Italian regions are included in the species' range.