

# Contribution to the distribution and karyology of some vespertilionid bats (Mammalia: Chiroptera) from Turkey

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**Abstract.** New records from 41 localities are given for six species of vespertilionid bats, namely *Myotis myotis* (Borkhausen, 1797), *M. blythii* (Tomes, 1857), *M. capaccinii* (Bonaparte, 1837), *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* (Schreber, 1774), *P. kuhlii* (Kühl, 1819) and *Barbastella barbastellus* (Schreber, 1774). The diploid number of chromosomes (2n) and the total numbers of autosomal arms (NFa) were determined as 2n= 44, NFa= 50 for *M. myotis*, *M. blythii*, *M. capaccinii*, *P. pipistrellus*, *P. kuhlii* and as 2n= 32, NFa= 50 for *B. barbastellus*.

**Zusammenfassung.** Für sechs Fledermausarten aus der Familie der Vespertilionidae, nämlich *Myotis myotis*, *M. blythii*, *M. capaccinii*, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, *P. kuhlii* und *Barbastella barbastellus*, werden insgesamt 41 neue Fundorte mitgeteilt. Als diploide Chromosomenzahl (2n) und Gesamtzahl der autosomalen Arme der Chromosomen (NFa) wurden festgestellt: 2n= 44, und NFa=50 bei *Myotis myotis*, *M. blythii*, *M. capaccinii*, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* und *P. kuhlii* sowie 2n= 32 und NFa= 50 bei *Barbastella barbastellus*.

**Key words:** Turkey, Middle East, Vespertilionidae, karyotype, chromosome, autosome.

## Introduction

According to the most recent taxonomic studies, a total of 34 bat species is found in Turkey, and the family Vespertilionidae Gray, 1825 is represented by 26 species (BENDA & HORÁČEK 1998, BENDA & TSYTSULINA 2000, HORÁČEK et al. 2000). *Myotis myotis* (Borkhausen, 1797), *Myotis blythii* (Tomes, 1857), and *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* (Schreber, 1774) are widely distributed in Turkey; *Myotis capaccinii* (Bonaparte, 1837) is confined to the coastal regions of southern and western Anatolia and to Turkish Thrace; *Pipistrellus kuhlii* (Kühl, 1819) occurs in western, eastern and mainly southern Anatolia, and *Barbastella barbastellus* (Schreber, 1774) only in northern Turkey with the exception of skeletal material from Adiyaman (OBUCH 1994). Most of the Turkish bats are under protection from the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) signed by the Turkish Government in 1984, and by Turkish national law.

The aim of this study was to review the distribution of some vespertilionid bats (the genera *Myotis*, *Pipistrellus*, and *Barbastella*), and to determine the chromosome numbers of these bats. Despite the importance of karyology for bat systematics, no karyological studies have been carried out on Turkish bats before, except on *B. barbastellus* and *M. capaccinii* (VOLLETH 1985, ALBAYRAK & AŞAN 2002).