

REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Yerevan State University, Faculty of Biology
Armenian National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Zoology
Ministry of Nature Protection of RA
Armenian Nature Protection Union NGO

NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROBATS
AGREEMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Yerevan, 2006
Armenia

A. General information

Non-Party Range: Republic of Armenia
Date of Report: March, 2006
Period covered: 2004-2006

Competent Authorities:

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B. Status of Bats within the territory of the Republic of Armenia

1. Summary Details of the Species

To the previously reported list of species of the Chiroptera of Armenia (Report 2003-2004) now 1 more species – *Myotis bechsteinii* – is added. Previously this species was found in Mountainous Karabagh only (Yavruyan, Hairaperyan, 2003; Hairapetyan, 2004). In 2004-2005 in Southern Armenia (Goris and Kapan districts) 4 males, 2 females and 2 juv. were collected.

Thus, now there are 28 species of bats found in Armenia – Rhinolophidae (5 species)

Vespertilionidae (22 species) and Molossidae (1 species).

2. Status and Trends

NN	Species	Status	Trends	Habitats	Average number in colonies
1.	<i>Rhinolophus euryale</i>	RBA, rare	stable	S, MS, MF	15-350
2.	<i>Rh. mehelyi</i>	RBA, rare	decline	MS, MF, S	5-30
3.	<i>Rh. hipposideros</i>	rare	decline	MS	1-175
4.	<i>Rh. ferrumequinum</i>	common	stable	V	10-7000
5.	<i>Rh. blasii</i>	New, rare	decline	MS, S	5-55
6.	<i>Myotis blythi</i>	common	stable	V	1-10000
7.	<i>M. bechsteinii</i>	New, numerous	decline (?)	V	1-7
8.	<i>M. natereri</i>	RBA, rare	decline	MS, MF	5-12
9.	<i>M. schaubi</i>	New, numerous	decline (?)	MS, MF	1-3
10.	<i>M. emarginatus</i>	rare	decline	V	1-5
11.	<i>M. mistacinus</i>	rare	decline	V	1-12
12.	<i>M. hajastanicus</i>	New, numerous	??	V	1-5
13.	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	common	decline (?)	V	1-142
14.	<i>Pl. austriacus</i>	rare	decline	MS, MF	1-5
15.	<i>Barbastella barbastella</i>	rare	decline	MS	1-7
16.	<i>B. leucomelas</i>	RBA, rare	?	MS, MF	1-5
17.	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	rare	?	LF, MS, MF	2-12
18.	<i>N. leisleri</i>	numerous	?	MF	1-3
19.	<i>Pipistrellus kuhlii</i>	common	stable	V	10-8000
20.	<i>P. pipistrellus</i>	common	stable	V	35-28000
21.	<i>P. pygmaeus</i>	New, numerous	stable	V	3-45
22.	<i>P. nathusii</i>	rare	decline (?)	MF, LF	3-9
23.	<i>Hypsugo savii</i>	rare	?	V	1-2
24.	<i>Vespertilio murinus</i>	rare	?	MS	2-5
25.	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	rare	?	V	1-3
26.	<i>E. bottae</i>	numerou	?	MS, S	1-2
27.	<i>Miniopterus schreibersii</i>	RBA, rare	decline	MS, MF	2-220
28.	<i>Tadarida teniotis</i>	RBA, rare	?	MF	3-11

RBA – Red Book of Armenian SSR (1987)

Habitats: MS – Mountain Steppe; MF – Mountain Forest; LF – Lowland Forest; S – Semi-desert; V – Various

3. Habitats and Roost sites

There are more than 800 caves and grottoes inhabited with bats (seasonally or constantly) found in Armenia. 17 of them are of big size, some of them with more than 2000 m total length. Mainly in such kind of caves some species (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, *Rh. mehelyi*, *Myotis blythi*, *Miniopterus schreibersii*) form colonies of many thousands, sometimes mixed. But the majority of bats prefer to live near settlements. They are especially numerous near water-bodies with coasts covered with moderately high plantation.

Currently, due to continuous cutting of old hollow trees, regular visits of people to roosts (caves, historical monuments – ruins of churches, monasteries, fortresses) many species of bats were forced to migrate to the big and small cities, frequently taking refuge in the attics of buildings.

4. Data collection

In Armenia researches on bats and their collection in restricted quantity are carried out by the staff of the Department of Zoology of Yerevan State University, Faculty of Biology, and by the members of “Armenian Nature Protection Union” (ANPU) NGO.

All the material collected is deposited in the Department of Zoology, except some part sent to our colleagues abroad for further study.

C. Activities carried out to promote awareness of the importance of the conservation of bats.

Regular information of population of Armenia (Annual Reports, booklets, posters, popular papers, broad- and telecast) about bat species composition, size of populations, importance of bats and necessity of protection of bats and their roosts is continued.

Scientific-popular film on bats (*Rhinolophidae*) of Surenavan cave has been prepared.

One more cave very popular among exotic object lovers - “Mageli” - were closed with metallic grilles by the members of ANPU NGO.

Unfortunately, till now there is no special law on protection of bats and their roosts in Armenia.

D. International co-operation

Since 2000 a group of researchers of Department of Zoology of Yerevan State University in co-operation with the scientists of the Institute of Zoology and the Institute of Neurophysiology of Polish Academy of Sciences has been carrying out studies on neurophysiology of bats and their species identification using modern methods.

A project on joint monitoring of biodiversity of caves situated near borders of countries in co-operation with scientists of Georgia, Russia and Azerbaijan is under development.

E. Publication on bat research and conservation in Armenia

During last 2 years more than 40 scientific articles of bats' ecology, distribution, karyology, ethology, physiology, etc., have been published. Booklet and brochure on bats of Armenia and Mountainous Karabagh were published as well.

3 thesis for PhD degree and 5 – for MSc degree have been defended.

Report was prepared on the basis of researches carried out by the researcher group of Department of Zoology of Yerevan State University, Faculty of Biology.