

Identification guide for bat species in caves and mines

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*ATTENTION: Bat species can be easily misidentified
IF YOU HAVE ANY DOUBTS, CONTACT US!*

If you find any bats in a cave or mine, you need to take a photo or video in order to check the species. You need to have in mind the following points:

- The face and ears must be clearly visible using the maximum resolution.
- You should minimize the number of photos (especially during summer and winter).
- You may use a soft flash or lamp to take the photo, but always using the minimum intensity.

1. Freely hanging from the ceiling, hanging by long and clearly visible legs and feet, usually wrapped by its wings:

1.1. Small size (~4 cm), does not roost in mix groups with other bat species

Rhinolophus hipposideros

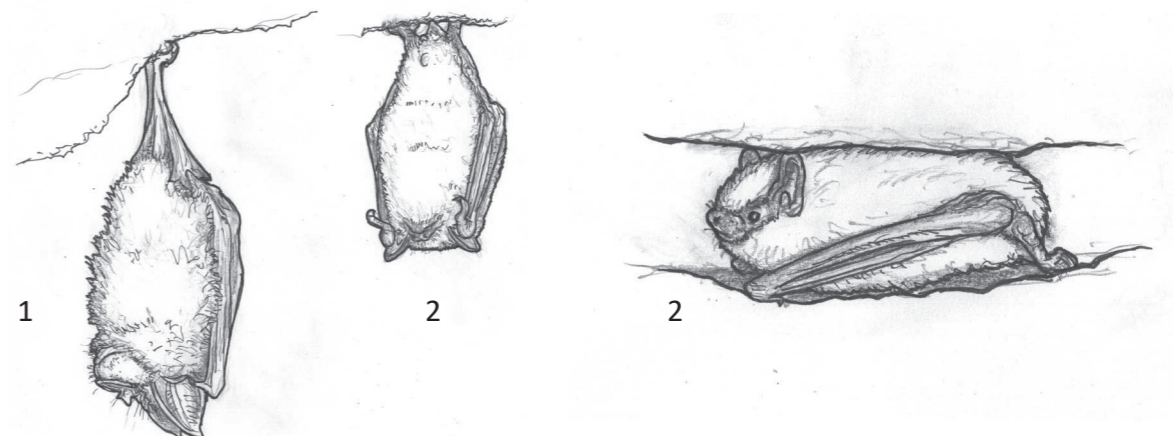
1.2. Medium size (5-6 cm), frequently roosting in mix groups with other bat species

Rhinolophus euryale

1.3. Large size (~8 cm), frequently roosting in mix groups with other bat species

Rhinolophus ferrumequinum

*Sometimes females can be found close to their young, which present a light grey pelage.





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2. Freely hanging from the ceiling, inside a crevice or clung to the wall. Short legs, feet not visible and wings folded at the sides of the body:

2.1. Body size similar to a sparrow (> 8 cm):

2.1.1. Dark brown/blackish face and rounded tragus*

Eptesicus serotinus/Vespertilio murinus

2.1.2. Light brown/beige face and pointed tragus:

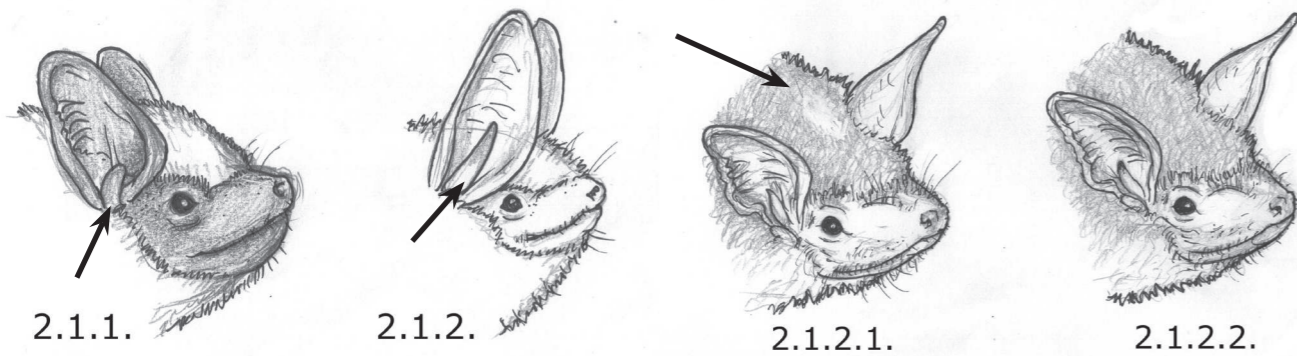
2.1.2.1. Head fur with a light patch between the ears

Myotis blythii

2.1.2.2. Head fur with no light patch between the ears

Myotis myotis/blythii

* Tragus: piece of skin in front of the ear canal, similar to a lancet.



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2.2.2. Front-facing ears, dark pelage and short snout

Barbastella barbastellus

2.2.3. Very large ears (almost as long as the body, usually folded)

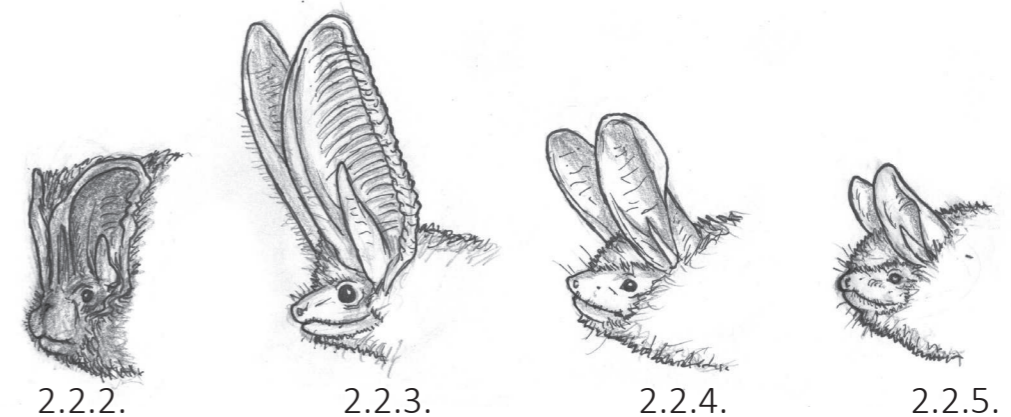
Plecotus sp.

2.2.4. Large ears, longer than the head

Myotis bechsteinii

2.2.5. Medium-sized ears (as long as the head), dorsoventral pelage contrasted, with brown dorsal fur and white ventral fur

Myotis escalerae/crypticus



2.2.6. Small ears (less than the head length):

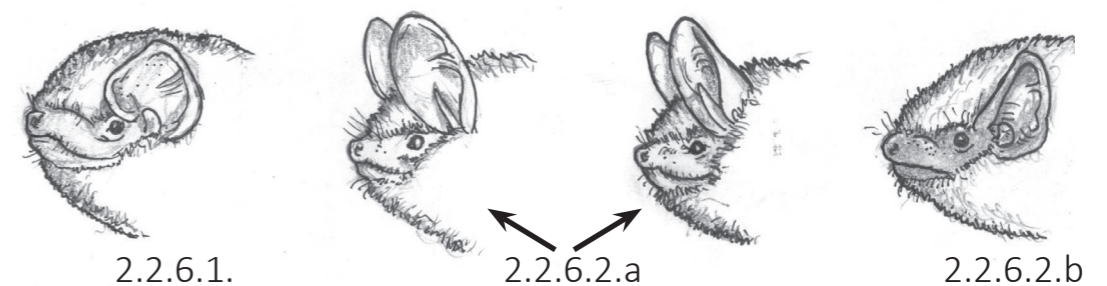
2.2.6.1. Prominent forehead with triangular ears, with similar length and width

Miniopterus schreibersii

2.2.6.2. Non-prominent forehead, ears longer than wide:

a. Grey/blackish pelage *Myotis daubentonii/capaccinii/mystacinus/alcaho*

b. Brown or beige pelage *Pipistrellus sp & Hypsugo savii*



2.2. Medium body size (4-8 cm):

2.2.1. Reddish and woolly pelage, with low dorsoventral contrast.

Ear with a clearly visible notch

Myotis emarginatus

