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**FIRST REPORT OF *MYOTIS NATTERERI* IN ROMAGNA  
(MAMMALIA, VESPERTILIONIDAE)\*\***

**Abstract**

The Authors present the first discovery of *Myotis nattereri* for Romagna region with some ecological notes.

**Riassunto**

Gli Autori segnalano il primo rinvenimento di *Myotis nattereri* per la Romagna con note ecologiche.

Key words: *Myotis nattereri*, Romagna, Chiroptera.

During a research on the ecology of *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* in Terra del Sole (FO) some nights were spent in mist-netting bats at two sites, over a pool and in front of an old building with a nursery colony of the Rhinolophidae. In 1994, from the 14<sup>th</sup>. to the 27<sup>th</sup> of May, during 5 nights of work from about the sunset and for 3-4 hours, five different species of bats were captured at mist-net (Table 1) and for the first time *Myotis nattereri* was found inhabiting the Romagna region. (Figure 1)

Table 1. Specie found during mist netting operations.

SPECIES	NUMBER OF SPECIMENS
<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	10
<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	2
<i>Hypsugo savii</i>	2
<i>Pipistrellus kuhli</i>	1
<i>Plecotus austriacus</i>	2
<i>Myotis emarginatus</i>	3
<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	3

The study place lies at 50 to 300 m slm in the hills around the valley of Montone river. In this zone is present a patchy environment with a mosaic of cultivated and sub-natural habitats. There are fields of wheat, maize, vegetables and orchards of peach, pear and vineyards. The village of Terra del Sole is a characteristic Renaissance place, with old buildings and a system of tunnel suitable for bats. Small ponds for irrigation are widespread on the hills and natural vegetation is characterized by a belt of hydrophilous communities along the river and among the valley and a *Quercetalia pubescentis* association on dry soils, with some erosive areas on clay.

The main uses of the land are shows in Fig.2 as computed for a 18 Km<sup>2</sup> area around the site from a soil use map (Carta dell'uso reale dei suoli 1:25.000, Regione Emilia Romagna, 1981).

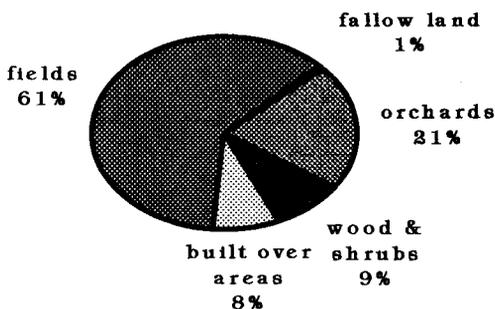


Figure 2. Land use for 18 Km<sup>2</sup> around the captures site of *Myotis nattereri*

*Myotis nattereri* Kuhl, 1818 is an uncommon species in Italy (Lanza, 1959) and only recently it was discovered in Emilia (Bertarelli, 1991) with a dead specimen collected near Sestola (MO) at 1020 m asl.

It was never found in Romagna as shown by a literature survey but Chiroptera have no a great attention in the past. This has been confirmed by recent sightings of species not previously encountered as *Rhinolophus euryale* (Bassi & Fabbri, 1985) and *Nyctalus noctula* (Scaravelli, 1992).

Probably *Myotis nattereri* was present with a nursery in the studied site, because only adult females were captured (Tab. 2). We suppose that the nursery is situated in the nearby abandoned building. In the same house there are nurseries of *Myotis emarginatus* and *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*. At the site all bats were captured in a small footpath between dense vegetation, wich was used as flightpath, 30 m away from the building. The captured specimens were released after being measured and weighed.

This discovery takes to 16 the number of species of bats present in the Romagna region.

Table 2. Measures of *Myotis nattereri* found during mist netting operations.

SEX	WEIGHT (g)	FOREARM (mm)
F	7,5	39,7
F	7,5	37,0
F	7,5	37,1

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*Myotis nattereri.*

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