

4th Session of the Meeting of Parties

Sofia, Bulgaria, 22 – 24 September 2003

Resolution No. 4.12

Priority Species for Autecological Studies



The Meeting of Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (hereafter "the Agreement"),

Recalling that MoP1, 2 and 3 recognised, in the Agreement's Conservation and Management Plan, the need to identify a list of Priority Species and the principal areas of autecological research that are required to assist in their conservation;

Recognising the importance of scientific knowledge of bats in order to identify the best conservation action and the need for international co-operation in some of that research;

Recalling that two species of northern Europe (*Pipistrellus nathusii* and *Myotis dasycneme*) have already been identified for collaborative research in MoP2 (Resolution 2.3);

Aware of the severe threats to the fauna of the Mediterranean region (a hotspot for bat biodiversity in Europe);

Noting that the Advisory Committee has identified a list of Priority Species and areas of autecological research particularly required for seven Mediterranean species from that list and identified three species for particular attention;

Decides to:

Instruct the Advisory Committee to develop a EUROBATS collaborative project focussed on one or more of *Rhinolophus euryale*, *Myotis capaccinii* and *Miniopterus schreibersii*. The project should include an element of population monitoring;

Instruct the Secretariat, with advice from the Advisory Committee, to encourage the project to be developed in detail, and to support the seeking for external funding as appropriate, and to report back on progress to the 5th Session of the Meeting of the Parties;

Additionally encourage researchers to consider the topics identified in Annex 15b as priorities to assist in the conservation of Mediterranean species.

Eurobats Action 8: Autecological Research on Priority Species

Population biology

Mating strategies of medium-sized *Rhinolophus* spp.

DNA for population structure of medium-sized *Rhinolophus* spp.

Monitoring strategies

Protocols for collecting and assessing population data (including sampling strategies) for *Rhinolophus* spp., *M. capaccinii*, *M. schreibersii*.

Foraging habitat requirements and diet

For *R. mehelyi*, *M. capaccinii*, *M. schreibersii*.

Migration/movement

For medium-sized *Rhinolophus* spp., *M. capaccinii*, *N. lasiopterus*, *M. schreibersii* (also *M. emarginatus*, *T. teniotis*).

Roosts

Winter roost patterns for *M. emarginatus*.

Disease/pathogens

In view of the mass mortalities or roost abandonment of *M. schreibersii* in 2002 and the discovery that similar events had occurred in the past, while recognising that this event may well have been related to weather factors rather than disease, there may be a need to have more background information on the pathology of the species, in order to more readily eliminate potential causes of such problems in the future.