

First record of *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* (Chiroptera: Vespertilionidae) in Anatolia

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Abstract. According to morphological characters and mitochondrial DNA sequences, eight very small bats of the *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* complex captured at the Kuş Cenneti National Park in the Marmara Region of Turkey could be assigned to the recently discovered species *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*. This finding represents the first record of *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* in Anatolia and the second in Turkey. The species may be distributed much further along the Aegean coast of Anatolia.

Kurzfassung. Anhand morphologischer Merkmale und mitochondrialer DNA-Sequenzen konnten acht sehr kleine Fledermäuse aus dem *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*-Komplex, die im Kuş Cenneti-Nationalpark gefangen worden waren, als Mückenfledermäuse (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) bestimmt werden. Dies ist der erste Fund der Art in Anatolien und der zweite in der Türkei. Er lässt ein Vorkommen auch entlang der anatolischen Ägäisküste erwarten.

Key words. Distribution, *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*, bats, Chiroptera, Anatolia, Turkey.

Introduction

The first studies on the phonic discrimination of bats with bat detectors revealed two different types of echolocation calls within bats which were thought to belong to *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* (Schreber, 1774) (AHLEN 1981, WEID & VON HELVERSEN 1987), and these calls were subsequently identified as actually belonging to two different species, the Common Pipistrelle, *P. pipistrellus*, and the Midge Bat, *P. pygmaeus* (Leach, 1825). Both species occur sympatrically (JONES & PARIJS 1993) and show considerable genetic differences (BARRATT et al. 1993, 1995, 1997). HÄUSSLER et al. (1999) described external characters which help to distinguish German *P. pipistrellus* and *P. pygmaeus*. In recent years *P. pygmaeus* has been found in most European countries (MAYER & VON HELVERSEN 2001, PRESETNIK et al. 2001, DIETZ et al. 2002, HULVA et al. 2004) and hence it was expected that the species would occur in Turkey as well. In 2003 BENDA et al. gave the first Turkish record of *P. pygmaeus* from Thrace. We now add the first record of the species for the Asiatic part of Turkey.

Material and methods

On 17.9.2003, we found several groups of bats in the birdwatching tower in the Kuş Cenneti National Park, situated on the north coast of Lake Manyas (Manyas Gölü, Kuş Gölü), mainly behind the window shutters and under the roof. The total number of bats was estimated to exceed