

# Mammal survey Serra da Estrela Portugal

## *Myotis escaleraei*

### Addendum to the report:

Willemsen, J. en E. Thomassen (ed.) (2009): Mammal survey Serra da Estrela Portugal 2009, Veldwerkgroep van de Zoogdierverseniging, Arnhem, ISBN: 978-90-79924-14-1.

### Serra da Estrela mammal survey 2009

From July 28<sup>th</sup> till August 6<sup>th</sup> 2009, the Field Study Group of the Dutch Mammal Society (Zoogdierverseniging) paid a visit to the Natural Park "Serra da Estrela", in the central-east of Portugal. In co-operation with the Serra da Estrela Information Centre (CISE), a lot of data on mammals was collected. Especially the use of mist nets to catch bats proved to be a valuable method for the survey of bats. Almost every night mist nets were set up on many locations, such as near streams and rivers, in water reservoirs for fire helicopters, on forest paths and at the entrances of caves and mines. This resulted in a list of 19 different bat species. The most prominent species were three types of Horseshoe bats, Barbastelle, Bechstein's bat, Soprano pipistrelle and Savi's pipistrelle.

### Mist net captures

Natterer's bat (*Myotis nattereri/escaleraei*) was observed through mist netting at two locations. During one session (near Lapa dos Dinheiros), one male was caught. During a second session, near Sazes da Beira, 13 males were caught, mostly while flying out of a mine. Females were probably still in breeding colonies elsewhere in the area. All bats captured were weighed, the underarm length was measured and the sex was determined. Next, animals were examined for parasites and for reproductive status. A DNA sample was taken for further investigation. The DNA material was sent to the Doñana Biological Station (part of the Spanish Council for Scientific Research CSIC) in Sevilla.



Photo: Jan Buys

DNA samples were taken from every bat captured.

### *Myotis nattereri/escaleraei*

It has been suggested that the French, Spanish and North-African *Myotis nattereri* are genetically, morphologically and ecologically different from *M. nattereri* elsewhere in Europe (Dietz et al., 2007; Ibanez et al., 2006). Consequentially, some consider French and Spanish populations to be *Myotis escaleraei* (Aulagnier et al., 2009). However, the species remains to be formally described and clear morphological characteristics were unknown during the summer camp in the Serra da Estrela. The two sibling species were therefore not distinguished. DNA analysis has revealed the exact species several months later.

### Results of DNA-analysis

In February 2010 Javier Juste informed us that all DNA-samples obtained from *Myotis nattereri/escaleraei* were examined. They all appeared to be originating from *Myotis escaleraei*. Also *Eptesicus serotinus* was confirmed by the DNA-analysis.

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February 17<sup>th</sup> 2010.