

First record of *Pipistrellus kuhlii* (Chiroptera) from Slovakia

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Pipistrellus kuhlii (Kuhl, 1817) has a Palearctic and Afrotropic distribution. It ranges from the Canary Islands eastward to 93° E in S Asia, most of Africa and throughout S and W Europe – from the Iberian Peninsula and France to S Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, the Balkan states and SW Russia (VERNIER & BOGDANOWICZ, 1999; HORÁČEK et al., 2000; SPITZENBERGER & BAUER, 2001; BOGDANOWICZ, 2004).

On 31 May 2006 an adult male *P. kuhlii* was recorded in City Park of Nitra (Nitrianska pahorkatina Highlands, W Slovakia, 48°18' N, 18°04' E; 140 m a.s.l.). The bat was caught in a 3.5 m high mist net erected on a bank of a small fishpond (ca. 200 × 80 m) surrounded by willows. External measurements of the bat were: body 43 mm, tail 40 mm, forearm 32.8 mm, hind foot 6 mm, ear 11 mm, tragus 5 mm, 3rd finger 58.2 mm, 5th finger 41.2 mm and wingspan 235 mm. The weight was 4.9 g. The bat was yellow-brown in color on the dorsal side of its body; the ears and face were brown. The wing was bordered by a 1–1.5 mm contrasting white margin between the 3rd finger and the tail (Fig. 1). The first upper incisor had a single cusp and the second incisor was almost impossible to recognise (15× magnifying glass). At the same location, several *Pipistrellus nathusii* (Keyserling et Blasius, 1839) were caught simultaneously with the *P. kuhlii*, so it was possible to compare the characteristics of both these quite similar species. The bat was photographically documented, banded (SLOVAKIA A 0597), allowed to drink and released again in the park, at night, on 4 June 2006.

The nearest record of this species is from Vienna, Austria, 130 km W (BOGDANOWICZ, 2004). Nitra is now the most northerly location recorded for this species in C Europe and it is consistent with its anticipated spread northwards (FIEDLER et al., 1999; BOGDANOWICZ, 2004). The occurrence of this species in an urban area was also typical for this species, as it exhibits one of the highest degrees of synanthropy among bat species in Europe (BOGDANOWICZ, 2004). It is interesting that four congeneric species were hunting together in the park: *Pipistrellus kuhlii*, *P. pipistrellus* (Schreber, 1774), *P. pygmaeus* (Leach, 1825) and *P. nathusii*.

Although *P. kuhlii* was already listed as a member of Slovakian mammal fauna (BABOR, 1943) this was challenged by FERIANC (1946) as unsubstantiated. A *Pipistrellus* sp. with a white margin on the wing membrane was misnetted in Kirč (Ipeľská kotlina basin, S Slovakia, 48°06' N,



Fig. 1. Contrasting white margin on the wing (between the 3rd finger and the tail) is typical character for *P. kuhlii*.

19°29' E; 151 m a.s.l.) on 27 July 2002 (KAŇUCH et al., 2003), but it was released before being identified with certainty. This species can be easily overlooked, because of its difficult acoustic identification and its similarity to other *Pipistrellus* species, but we anticipate that there will be additional records in southern Slovakia in the future.

The number of bat species in Slovakia has increased over the last several years due to new records – *Myotis alcathoe* Helversen et Heller, 2001 (BENDA et al., 2003) and *Hypsugo savii* (Bonaparte, 1837) found by LEHOTSKÁ & LEHOTSKÝ (2006); and now this record of *P. kuhlii*. To date, a total of 28 bat species have been recorded in Slovakia.

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