

Leisler's bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*) under conditions of Medobory Nature Reserve

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Medobory Nature Reserve (10454 ha) is situated in the east of Ternopil region. Studies in Gorodnytske forestry were carried out in August 1999. Leisler's bat (NL) was found in two areas for the first time.

The NL colony is located in the *Fraxinus excelsior* crack hollow (the tree is 43 cm in diameter). This hollow was created as a result of longitudinal peeling of bark at the south-west inclination of the tree. Two little openings (bat-entrances) are located at 1.9 m above the ground. They have the following dimensions and exposition: 14 x 1.2 cm south-east and 5 x 0.8 cm north-west. Bats were located at the upper end of the hollow at a 15–30 cm distance from the openings. NL colony is formed by approximately by 40 individuals. On 13.08.1999, four specimens (2m and 2f) were caught and measured. This area is situated on the north-east exposition of a slope (5°) in 100 m beyond the quarter cutting and 1.25 km beyond the Zbruch river. There is a glade 15 x 20 m formed by windfall. Forest stand is rarefied and composed by middle-age *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Acer platanoides*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Quercus robur*.

The second NL locality is situated on afforested limestone 50–70 m swelling which is stretched-out from south-east to north-west. On this area, on 16.08.1999, 11 NL individuals were caught (4 m; 7f) from 00:45 to 05:47 by the local time. Unfortunately, NL roost was not found for certain, but quite possible that NL formed an aggregative colony with *Nyctalus noctula* in *Acer platanoides* hollow at 7 m height above the ground (the tree is 59 cm in diameter). A small glade (10 x 15 m) is near the hollow tree. Steep slope and deep ravine restrict this area from the south, and thickened stand of the young growth — from the north. Somewhere the area is covered by lump limestone outcrop. Rarefied forest stand is composed mainly by mature *Acer platanoides*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Tilia cordata* and immature *Carpinus betulus*, *Acer campestre*, *Ulmus caprinifolia*. High density of insects (mainly Diptera and Hymenoptera orders) are common there.

Medobory Reserve conditions are favourable for the existence of Leisler's bat. Absolute absence of human interference and realisation of monitoring studies are important conditions for preservation of this rare bat species.