

Records of *Nyctalus lasiopterus* in the Gömör-Torna Karst (Slovakia, Hungary)

Štefan MATIS¹, Sándor BOLDOGH² & Peter PJENČÁK³

¹ SEO Bambi, P.O.Box 47, SK-045 01 Moldava nad Bodvou, Slovakia; matis@max.euroweb.sk

² Aggtelek National Park Directorate Tengersizem oldal 1, HU-3758 Jósvalfő, Hungary;
info.anp @axelero.hu

³ Regional Museum, SK-094 31 Hanušovce nad Topľou, Slovakia; pjencak@stonline.sk

Abstract. The paper deals with two new records of *Nyctalus lasiopterus* in the Hungarian and Slovak parts of the Gömör-Torna Karst Region.

***Nyctalus lasiopterus*, distribution, Aggtelek Karst NP, Slovak Karst NP**

Introduction

The greater noctule, *Nyctalus lasiopterus* (Schreber, 1780), a species of south-west-Palaeartic distribution, can be found from the Atlantic coast of Europe to the Caspian region, and from northern Africa to Poland and the Moscow region of Russia (Horáček et al. 2000). Based on the recent data, it's a sporadic species in Central Europe.

In Hungary, the first greater noctule was collected by I. Vásárhelyi on 11 September 1933 in Lillafüred, Bükk Mountains (Topál 1959). Based on the recent studies (Gombkötő et al. 1996, Szatyor 2000, Topál 1976), less than ten records are known in Hungary. The majority of records come from the Northern Mountain Range, extending from the area of the Bükk Mts., Mátra Mts. to the Zemplén Mountains (Topál 1959, 1996, Dobrosi 1993, Bihari et al. 2000). The occurrence of the greater noctule in the Aggtelek Karst Region had not been recorded until the middle 90ties. Since this species can be easily identified for its huge size during flying at dusk (especially, if seen among the individuals of *N. noctula*), the first new records of this species were obtained this way. Š. Matis and P. Pjenčák detected a flying greater noctule on 13 September 1995 near Perkupa (Matis 1997, Boldogh 2003). G. Gorman also observed a flying individual of this species on 6 May 2003 near Jósvalfő (Lófej-völgy).

Only 4 records of this species were known from Slovakia. The first record of the species comes from Schaefer (1973) who found remains of this bat in a pellet of *Bubo bubo* collected in Belianske Tatry Mts. In Obuch's (1985, 1992) opinion, actually it was a pellet of *Strix aluco*. The only collected live individual was a young female which was mist netted at Senné fishpond in autumn 1973 (Danko 1974, Hanák & Danko 1975). The following two records of *N. lasiopterus* were the skeletal remnants: Obuch (1985) collected a well preserved skull in a cliff-crack near the village Poluvsie in the Strážovské vrchy Mts. The second report comes from the Malé Karpaty Mts., where the remnants of the greater noctule were found among the food remnants in the cliff nest of *Falco cherrug* (Obuch & Chavko 1997).

Here we describe records of the greater noctule from both Slovak and Hungarian parts of the Gömör-Torna Karst in summer 2003.

Records

(1) **Szinpetri** (Hungary), Mill Inn (Malom-fogadó), 23 July 2003, 1 nursing female. The site is near the border of the protected area of the Aggtelek National Park in the valley of the Jósva, at the western end of Szinpetri settlement. It is situated at 181,5 m above sea level. The individual was mist netted at an artificial widening of a stream, approximately 400 m apart from the nearest forested area. At the time of mist netting, another flying individual was observed. Beside the greater noctule, the following species were netted at the site: *Myotis daubentonii* (1 individual), *M. dasycneme* (1), *Eptesicus serotinus* (4), *Nyctalus noctula* (15), *N. leisleri* (3).

(2) **Kečovo** (Slovakia), Kečovská vyvieračka spring, 3 August 2003, 1 young female. The site is located at the western edge of the Slovak Karst National Park, near the village of Kečovo on the Silica Plateau. It is situated at 360 m above sea level. The individual was mist netted at the widening of a small stream. Similarly to the site near Szinpetri, another flying individual was observed as well. The smaller species of the genus *Nyctalus* were mist netted here, too *N. noctula* (10) and *N. leisleri* (6). Besides these, the following species were netted: *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* (4), *Myotis myotis* (4), *M. oxygnathus* (2), *M. emarginatus* (1), *M. bechsteinii* (1), *M. daubentonii* (7), *Eptesicus serotinus* (17), *Vespertilio murinus* (1), *Plecotus auritus* (1), *Barbastella barbastellus* (2), *Miniopterus schreibersii* (8).



Fig. 1. Portraits of the greater noctule (Kečovo, Slovakia, 3 August 2003).
Obr. 1. Portréty raniaka veľkého (Kečovo, 3. 8. 2003).

Comments

The greater noctule is a strictly protected and rare species. For this reason each new record deserves a special concern. Based on the records published in this paper, it is possible that a so far unknown nursing colony occurs somewhere in the region. There are not enough records yet to determine the population size, so it is necessary to continue to survey the population. The Gömör-Torna Karst Region is divided into two parts by the border, but both sections represent a single geomorphological and biogeographical unit. National Park directorates are responsible for the conservation of the natural assets in this region in both countries, so we hope that these greater noctule habitats will be preserved for the protection of this species.

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Súhrn

Nálezy raniaka veľkého *Nyctalus lasiopterus* na území Gemersko-Turnianskeho krasu (Slovensko, Maďarsko). V predloženej práci informujeme o dvoch nálezoch raniaka veľkého (*Nyctalus lasiopterus*) na území Gemersko-Turnianskeho krasu (NP Slovenský kras, NP Aggtelek). V oboch prípadoch ide o odchyt jedincov do nárazových sietí. Prvý nález pochádza z NP Aggtelek, kde bola 23. 7. 2003 odchytená kojaca samica pri obci Szinpetri nad rozšíreným miestom potoka. Ďalší odchyt bol uskutočnený na Slovensku v NP Slovenský kras pri obci Kečovo. Tu bola odchytená 3. 8. 2003 mladá samica nad rozšíreným miestom potôčika vytekajúceho z Kečovskej vyvieracky. Predstavuje to piaty doklad výskytu a druhý nález živého jedinca *N. lasiopterus* na Slovensku. Na základe uvedených nálezov a ďalších pozorovaní druhu na maďarskej strane územia predpokladáme výskyt reprodukčnej kolónie v oblasti.

Összefoglalo

Az óriás korai denevér *Nyctalus lasiopterus* előfordulása a Gömör-Tornai-karszt területén (Szlovákországh, Magyarországh). Az eddigi adatok alapján az óriás korai denevér a teljes elterjedési területén szórványos előfordulású, a Kárpát-medencéből is nagyon kevés adatát ismerjük. Az Aggteleki-karszt területén korábban csak 2 repülő állatot sikerült megfigyelni, a Szlovák-karszton pedig teljesen ismeretlen volt a faj előfordulása. 2003. július 23-án Szinpetri határában egy szoptató nőstény, míg augusztus 3-án a Kečovo (Kecső) mellett egy fiatal nőstény akadt hálóbá. Mindkét helyen még további egy-egy repülő példányt is meg tudtunk figyelni. Az adatok alapján egyértelmű, hogy a fajnak szülőkolóniája található a Gömör-Tornai-karszt területén.

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