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Untersuchung des Nahrungsspektrums zweier Fledermausarten (*Rhinolophus hipposideros & R. ferrumequinum*) auf Asinara, Sardinien

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Diet of two bat species (*Rhinolophus hipposideros & R. ferrumequinum*) on Asinara Island, Sardinia

Abstract

At the former prison island Asinara the bat species *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* and *R. hipposideros* use the abandoned buildings as roosts. To understand the quality of a foraging habitat, data about the potential prey and the species' dietary requirements are necessary. Therefore, we studied prey availability as well as insects consumed by *R. hipposideros* and *R. ferrumequinum* in the Asinara Island National Park. Insects were assessed to order using light trap capture data from 2013 and 2014. Droppings were collected once a week from May to July 2015 at a day roost and a night roost of each species. We determined presence-absence data of insect orders and the main prey component per dropping. Lepidoptera, Hymenoptera and Coleoptera were predominant in light trap captures. In droppings, we identified fragments of seven insect orders, i. e. Lepidoptera, Hymenoptera, Diptera, Coleoptera, Neuroptera, Orthoptera and Hemiptera, as well as spiders. In droppings of *R. hipposideros,* we determined fragments of six insect orders as well as of spiders. In droppings of *R. ferrumequinum,* seven insect orders were identified. Lepidoptera was the most present order in droppings of both species (98,8%). Significant differences in the diet of the two species were ascertained for Hymenoptera, Neuroptera and Diptera. Composition of droppings in day roosts and night roosts showed no significant differences, but droppings from day roost of *R. hipposideros* showed Lepidoptera as significant main prey.

Keywords

faeces, prey insects, bat conservation, national park

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