

The Type Locality of *Miniopterus schreibersi* (KUHLE) (Mammalia: Chiroptera)

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ABSTRACT: Authors review and discuss the literature concerning the actual type locality of the Long-winged Bat, *Miniopterus schreibersi*.

Vespertilio schreibersii Kuhl 1819, Ann. Wetterau Ges. Naturk., 4 (2): 185.

The type locality of this species has long remained vague. It was given in the original description as "...südöstlichen Gebirge des Bannats in der Colmbäzer Höhle" which was rendered by MILLER (1912: 269) in his major work on the mammals of western Europe as "Kulmbazer Cave, mountains of southern Bannat, Hungary," and this has been followed by authors of subsequent standard works such as ELLERMAN & MORRISON-SCOTT (1951: 183) and ELLERMAN, MORRISON-SCOTT & HAYMAN (1953: 87). An exception was G. M. Allen (1939: 104) who gave the type locality as "Germany", but this clearly incorrect and must be disregarded. There are various spellings of the name. Colmbäzer is Germanised; Galambócz (antiquated) or Galambóc (modern) are Hungarian; while Golubác and Kolumbács are probably Hungarianised forms of the Slavonic. Golumbatz and Kulmbozer have also appeared in the literature (see below).

There appear to be two possible places where the type-specimen originated, one on each side of the River Danube. According to MÉHELY (1900:296) SCHREIBERS discovered the species in "...the so-called Kolumbács Cave in Bannat and in Veteráni Cave in 1809. "He regarded the Kolumbács Cave as evidently the Fly Cave at the village of Coronini (loc. cit., footnote). Farther on (page 298 footnote) MÉHELY pointed out that KOLENATI had definitely regarded the cave as being in Serbia. The English traveller John PAGET (1839: 115-116) gave an account of the area as follows: "Golumbatz, - a corruption of columba, the castle of the dove - is said to have been the prison of the Greek Empress Helena, and was a point often strongly contested in the earlier periods of Hungarian history. In 1428, it was besieged by King Sigismund, who lost the greater part of his army in the attempt, and who with difficulty escaped with his own life. It was afterwards taken from the Turks by Corvinus, and held by the Hungarians together with other fortresses in Servia, for some time."; and farther on: "Soon after passing Babakay, the boatman pointed out to us a cavern half-way up the mountain on the Hungarian shore, as the identical cave

of the Dragon slain by St. George, and where, they say, the foul carcass still decays, and, like Virgil's ox, gives birth to a host of winged things. What is certain is, that from this direction, and it is strictly maintained from this very cave, proceeds the Golumbatzer Mücken, a peculiar kind of mosquito, which often invades the Banat in swarms, to the great injury of the flocks and herds." PAGET thus indicated the ancient castle on the right, or south, bank of the Danube, and the Fly Cave on the left, or north, bank. The name Kolumbács, or any of its variants, may well have been used for the general vicinity on both banks, in a similar way to Komarno on the Czechoslovakian side of the Danube and Komárom on the Hungarian side.

The question is which side is the type locality of Miniopterus schreibersi. From the passages quoted above it is apparent that MÉHELY, although taking note of KOLENATI's opinion, thought that it was on the left bank, i. e. the Fly Cave. KOLENATI (1860: 126) had simply written: "Aufenthalt. In Höhlen, als in der Golumbacz-Höhle Serbiens..." and, although also recording the Veteráni Cave, he did not mention the Fly Cave at all. We do not consider that the bare wording "Golumbacz-Höhle Serbiens" is convincing proof, but think that MÉHELY was correct in identifying the Fly Cave as the place where SCHREIBERS collected. In support of this is the fact that at that time the frontier of the Turkish empire still extended to the south bank of the lower Danube, and there was a chain of border posts along the Hungarian bank. In these circumstances it would surely have been unwise, and perhaps dangerous, to try and cross from the north to the south bank for a collecting expedition. In addition, the Veteráni Cave where, according to MÉHELY, SCHREIBERS also obtained M. schreibersi is farther east along the left bank, at a village called Plavisevica.

We therefore conclude that the correct type locality of Miniopterus schreibersi (KUHL) may be defined as: "Colmbäzer Höhle, which is the Kolumbács Cave (or "Fly Cave") on the left bank of the River Danube, about 44° 37' North, 21° 40' East, near the village of Coronini". This is in Roumania, as KOOPMAN (1975: 417) correctly pointed out, though he spelt the name "Kulmbozer".

ANSELL W. F. H. — TOPÁL Gy.: A hosszúsárnyú denevér
(Miniopterus schreibersi (KUHL)) (*Mammalia: Chiroptera*)
típusának lelőhelye

A szerzők a hosszúsárnyú denevér típuspéldányának - a kutatók által többféleképpen megadott - gyűjtőhelyére vonatkozó irodalmi adatok értékelése után bizonyítottnak tekintik, hogy ez a lelőhely csak a Kolumbácsai-, vagy másnéven a Légy-barlang lehetett. Ez a barlang pedig a Duna bal partján, Coronini község közelében, Románia területén van (44° 37' északi szélesség és 21° 40' keleti hosszúság).

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