

# Contents

Preface by Hans-Ulrich Schnitzler .....	8
Preface by Ingemar Ahlén .....	10
Acknowledgments .....	12
Foreword .....	18
List of species .....	21
Glossary .....	22
List of abbreviations .....	31

## Chapter 1

### **The biological sonar** **33**

Background .....	34
Introduction .....	34
Historical background .....	34
General principles of acoustic localization .....	36
Basic concepts in acoustics .....	38
The nature of sound .....	38
Sound waves and their characteristics .....	38
Sound propagation .....	39
Simple sounds and complex sounds .....	40
Sound analysis .....	41
Sound functions .....	42
Emission and reception .....	44
Emission .....	44
Reception .....	44
Sonar signals and social calls .....	45

## Chapter 2

### **Ultrasound detectors** **49**

Technical features of ultrasound detectors .....	50
The microphone .....	50
The treatment of perceived ultrasounds .....	52
Ultrasound decoding systems .....	54
Frequency division or zero-crossing .....	54
Heterodyning .....	56
Time expansion .....	57
Computer-assisted analysis .....	59
Which bat detector for which purpose? .....	62
Hand-held detectors .....	62
<i>Pure heterodyne detectors</i> .....	62
<i>Frequency division detectors</i> .....	63
<i>Detectors with time expansion option</i> .....	63
Automatic recording tools for passive monitoring .....	63
<i>Time expansion and high-frequency recording systems</i> .....	64
<i>Frequency division systems</i> .....	64
Matching technical features to research needs .....	64
<i>Qualitative inventories (species lists)</i> .....	64
<i>Quantitative surveys (activity assessments, habitat studies)</i> .....	66
<i>Qualitative and quantitative surveys</i> .....	66
<i>Sonar signal research</i> .....	67

**Chapter 3 The sonar signals of bats: classification and interpretation 69**

Method of auditory analysis.....	70
Methodological principle.....	70
The identification process.....	71
Auditory training.....	71
Méthode d'analyse informatique.....	71
Using BatSound.....	73
Reading the different types of graphical display.....	78
<i>The spectrogram: representation of the structure</i> .....	79
<i>The oscillogram: representation of the envelope</i> .....	80
<i>The power spectrum: representation of the distribution of energy over frequencies</i> ... 81	
Interpreting signal structure types.....	82
<i>The steep FM structure</i> .....	82
<i>The QCF structure</i> .....	82
<i>The flat-ended FM structure (FM-QCF)</i> .....	86
<i>The CF structure (FMa-CF-FMd) or 'Doppler technology'</i> .....	87
<i>Harmonics</i> .....	88
Methodology for the measurement of signals.....	90
<i>General measurements</i> .....	90
<i>Measuring an FM signal</i> .....	92
<i>Measuring a QCF type signal (BW &lt; 5 kHz)</i> .....	94
<i>Measuring FM-QCF and flat-ended FM signals</i> .....	97
<i>Measuring FMa-CF-FMd signals</i> .....	99

**Chapter 4 The acoustic identification of bats 103**

Method and equipment.....	104
Auditory identification with the heterodyne system.....	107
Criteria for species identification.....	108
<i>Frequency at maximum energy (FME)</i> .....	108
<i>Structure</i> .....	108
<i>Rhythm</i> .....	111
<i>Intensity</i> .....	113
Possible confusions.....	113
Identification of long CF signals (FM/CF/FM signals of Rhinolophids) ...	114
Identification of QCF and flat-ended FM signals.....	115
<i>Bats emitting QCF and flat-ended FM signals of short to intermediate duration with FME &gt; 30 kHz</i> .....	116
<i>Bats emitting QCF or flat-ended FM signals of medium to long duration and FME &lt; 30 kHz</i> .....	121
Identification of steep FM sweeps.....	127
Identification by means of social calls.....	128
Simplified identification key in heterodyne detection.....	130
Auditory and computer-assisted identification in time expansion.....	131
Criteria for species Identification.....	133
<i>Structure</i> .....	133
<i>Bandwidth</i> .....	137
<i>Duration</i> .....	138

<i>Sonority</i> .....	139
<i>Frequency band position in the general spectrum (overall pitch of the signal)</i> ..	140
<i>Energy distribution</i> .....	141
<i>Rhythm</i> .....	143
<i>Reading scatter diagrams</i> .....	146
Identification of CF signals (horseshoe bats) .....	150
Identification of QCF-FMd signals .....	153
Identification of QCF, FM-QCF and flat-ended FM signals.....	156
<i>Species with FME &lt; 30 kHz</i> .....	158
QCF signals .....	158
The case of QCF signals below 20 kHz .....	159
QCF and flat-ended FM signals with alternating FMEs .....	163
FM-QCF, flat-ended FM and narrowband FM signals .....	163
Sequences of QCF, FM-QCF and flat-ended FM signals with FME < 30 kHz.....	168
<i>Species with FME &gt; 30 kHz</i> .....	170
QCF signals .....	173
FM-QCF, flat-ended FM and narrowband FM signals .....	175
Sequences of QCF, FM-QCF and flat-ended signals with FME > 30 kHz .....	182
Identification of FM sweeps .....	186
<i>The nasal sonority</i> .....	187
Differentiating genus <i>Barbastella</i> from genus <i>Plecotus</i> .....	187
Distinguishing among the <i>Plecotus</i> species.....	190
Sequences of nasal FM signals.....	193
<i>The whistled sonority</i> .....	196
Distinguishing true FM species from FM-QCF species.....	196
A special case: the alternating signals of <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i> .....	199
FME < 35 kHz .....	201
FME > 35 kHz (genus <i>Myotis</i> ).....	203
Identification through social calls.....	244
<i>Genus Myotis</i> .....	245
<i>Genus Pipistrellus</i> .....	245
<i>Genera Hypsugo and Vespertilio</i> .....	250
<i>Genus Nyctalus</i> .....	250
<i>Genus Plecotus</i> .....	252
General identification key.....	254

## Chapter 5

<b>Applications</b> .....	<b>257</b>
Locating bat roosts .....	258
Introduction and objectives.....	258
Preconditions .....	258
Preparation .....	258
Survey of hunting sites.....	259
Survey of flight routes.....	259
Survey of roost sites.....	259
Survey of mating territories.....	261
The survey in practice .....	262
Population monitoring.....	264
Habitat studies.....	268
Are bat detectors objective tools for assessing the biological value of habitats? .....	268
Spatio-temporal variability bias.....	270

Unit of measurement for bat activity .....	270
Identification.....	273
Species detectability .....	273
Types of activity: foraging, transit and social interactions.....	274
Activity indices.....	275
Acoustic surveys.....	278
Continuous count transects and point counts.....	280
Duration and repeating of point counts.....	281
Descriptor variables of the habitats .....	282
Continuous recording method .....	283

## Chapter 6 Acoustic ecology 295

The concept of acoustic ecology.....	296
Example 1: the sonar of the barbastelle .....	298
Description of the alternating signals of <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i> ...	298
Context of emission of alternating signals.....	300
Comparing the alternating signals of <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i> and <i>Nyctalus noctula</i> .....	300
Hypothesis of a relationship between alternated sonar pattern and diet in <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i> .....	301
Example 2: the sonar of the greater noctule .....	304
Audiograms of passerine birds that migrate by night.....	305
Predation pressure .....	306
Counter-strategy of the predator .....	307
Promising fields for future research.....	312
The sudden irruption of <i>Nyctalus leisleri</i> sequences .....	312
The signals of long-eared bats .....	312
The 'erratic' variations in intensity of <i>Miniopterus schreibersii</i> .....	314
The inter-individual variability of signal frequency in horseshoe bats..	315
Convex versus concave signal structure .....	315
The function of the final whack: strong specialization of <i>Myotis</i> <i>nattereri</i> ? .....	316

## Chapter 7 Frequently asked questions on acoustic detection and identification 319

The heterodyne system.....	320
Time expansion .....	322
Scatter diagrams.....	324
Bat activity studies .....	326

## Chapter 8 Perspectives 329

Technical developments.....	330
Methodological developments.....	330
Extending the method worldwide .....	331
Dissemination of knowledge and skill.....	331

## Appendices 335

Bibliography.....	336
Scatter diagrams for the identification of the sonar signals of the three <i>Plecotus</i> species studied.....	340
Index.....	346