Conservation implications of bat virology research

Bats are the "stars" of research in the field of zoonotic viruses - viruses that spread from animals to humans. Thanks to their special characteristics, tropical members of this group of animals are the hosts of viruses responsible for the outbreaks of many human epidemics, such as Ebola, Nipah, SARS, MERS and COVID-19. In our country, of course, there is no need to fear these flying mammals, as the occurrence of epidemics in Europe is almost completely excluded, and they are also extremely useful members of ecosystems, as well as being protected under nature conservation legislation, thanks to their significant insect consumption.