

White-nose syndrome is an emerging fungal disease of bats causing massive die-offs in North American populations. The fungus causes lesions on bat skin, mainly on noses, ears and wing membranes. The infection by the fungus is accompanied by serious disruption of metabolism and hibernation physiology that is lethal to bats in North America. European bats seem to survive the disease in greater numbers. Since the fungus is probably of European origin, this study assumes that bats in Europe have developed inheritable defence mechanisms to the disease. The infection by the fungus serves as a strong selective pressure. We tested sequences of 7 genes for signs of positive selection using maximum likelihood approach. We detected past positive selection in the gene for transglutaminase 1.