

Bicoloured Roundleaf Bat *Hipposideros bicolor* at Sungai Relau, Taman Negara, Peninsular Malaysia

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Photographs by: Nick Baker.

Subject identified by: Pipat Soisook (as *Hipposideros atrox*), Benjamin Lee, Nick Baker.

Location: Sungai Relau visitor area, Taman Negara, Peninsular Malaysia. (Lat 4° 40.82'N Long 102° 3.42'E)

Elevation: 160 metres

Habitats: Mixed : grassy clearing, lowland primary forest, oil palm plantation.

Date and time: 23 October 2016, 16:00 hrs

Identity of subject: Bicoloured Roundleaf Bat, *Hipposideros bicolor* species complex (Mammalia: Chiroptera: Hipposideridae). Tentatively *Hipposideros atrox*. (see Remarks).

Description of record: An empty, disused building at Sungai Relau visitor area was briefly inspected: a single insectivorous bat (Fig 1) was found roosting in near darkness. Upon being disturbed the bat flew out of the room through a small gap. An hour later the bat was found to have taken roost in an adjacent room which was also in near darkness.



Fig. 1.

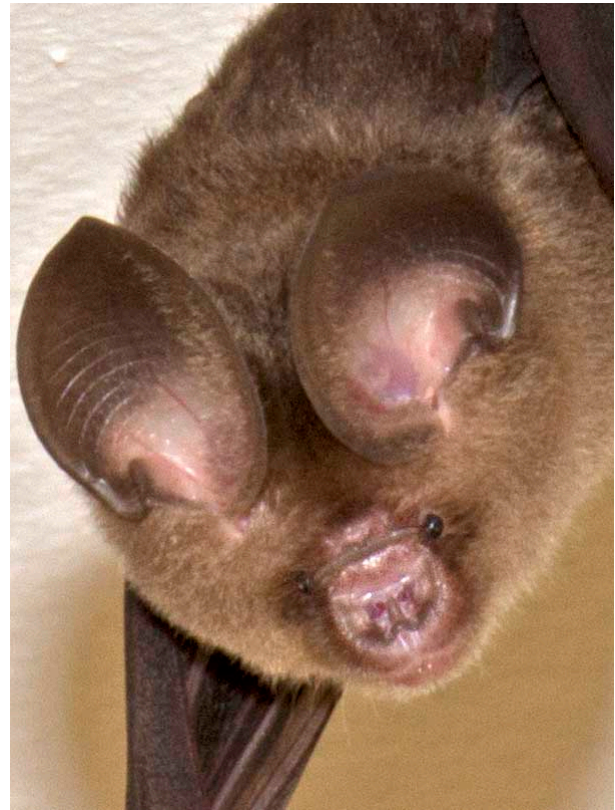


Fig. 2.

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Remarks: The subject is identified as belonging to the *Hipposideros bicolor* species complex, based on the following : (i) bicoloured fur which accords with the following description in Kingston et al (2006): "Upperparts buffy brown to greyish brown or chestnut to orange ... Underparts paler or buffy white ... Fur is distinctly bicoloured, with white bases", (ii) a simple noseleaf which lacks lateral lappets and has a straight internarial septum (Fig. 2).

Within Peninsular Malaysia the *Hipposideros bicolor* species complex includes two near-identical phonic types, namely '*H. bicolor* 131-kHz' and '*H. bicolor* 142-kHz' (Kingston et al, 2001). The latter is also referred to as *Hipposideros atrox*, although this name has not been formally assigned (see Doungboubpha et al, 2010). Since no measurements of the bat were taken, and no echolocation calls recorded, this bat is tentatively identified as *H. bicolor* 142-kHz (= *Hipposideros atrox*) based on the precise shape of the anterior noseleaf and internarial septum (P. Soisook, pers. comm.). Comparison was also made with images in Doungboubpha et al (2010: 426).

Sungai Relau is the western gateway to Taman Negara, the largest protected area in Peninsular Malaysia. The visitor area comprises short grass, scattered trees and widely separated chalets (now not in use). Tall, primary forest lies 70 metres east of the unused building in which this bat was found, and an extensive oil palm plantation lies 110 metres to the west.

Hipposideros bicolor is well documented in Taman Negara. In 2008 the species was trapped during a small mammal survey at Kuala Atok in the southeast of Taman Negara (Tingga et al, 2012).

References:

- Doungboubpha, B., Bumrungsri, S., Soisook, P., Satasook, C., Thomas, N. M. & Bates, P. J. (2010). A taxonomic review of the *Hipposideros bicolor* species complex and *H. pomona* (Chiroptera: Hipposideridae) in Thailand. *Acta Chiropterologica*, 12(2), 415-438.
- Kingston, T., Lara, M. C., Jones, G., Akbar, Z., Kunz, T. H. & Schneider, C. J. (2001). Acoustic divergence in two cryptic *Hipposideros* species: a role for social selection?. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London B: Biological Sciences*, 268(1474), 1381-1386.
- Kingston, T., Lim, B. L. & Akbar, Z. (2006). *Bats of Krau Wildlife Reserve*. Penerbit Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. 147 pp.
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