

Diadem Roundleaf Bat *Hipposideros diadema* on Pulau Tioman, Peninsular Malaysia

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Photograph by: Tan Heok Hui.

Subject identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location: Forested area behind Kampung Paya, Pulau Tioman, Peninsular Malaysia.

Elevation: 10 metres above sea level.

Habitat: Secondary forest.

Date and time: 16 July 2018, 21:12 hrs.

Identity of subject: Diadem Roundleaf Bat, *Hipposideros diadema* (Mammalia: Chiroptera: Hipposideridae).

Description of record: A solitary bat of around 12-15 cm from tip of head to toe was sighted hanging off the end of a twig, about 5 metres above the ground (Fig. 1). It was turning its body about on the horizontal plane, twitching its head as it rotated from right to left. The encounter occurred under a clear sky with a new moon and occasional gusts of wind. The bat was observed on the twig for around two minutes before it flew off, possibly alarmed by the camera flash.

Remarks: This large hipposiderid is readily recognised by i) dark brownish fur on its back, ii) distinctive whitish patches on the shoulders and edges of wings and iii) three or four lateral leaflets at the sides of the muzzle. The featured individual could be male, as in females the pale patches tend to be more orange and buff-coloured (Francis, 2008: 54, 223).

The Diadem Roundleaf Bat usually roosts in large colonies in limestone caves, but it has also been recorded using tree hollows or roosting alone under palms in both primary and secondary forests (V.-C. Lim et al., 2017: 23). It has been observed feeding by hanging from a perch and waiting for prey to pass by (Francis, 2008: 54, 223), which could be what the featured example was doing.

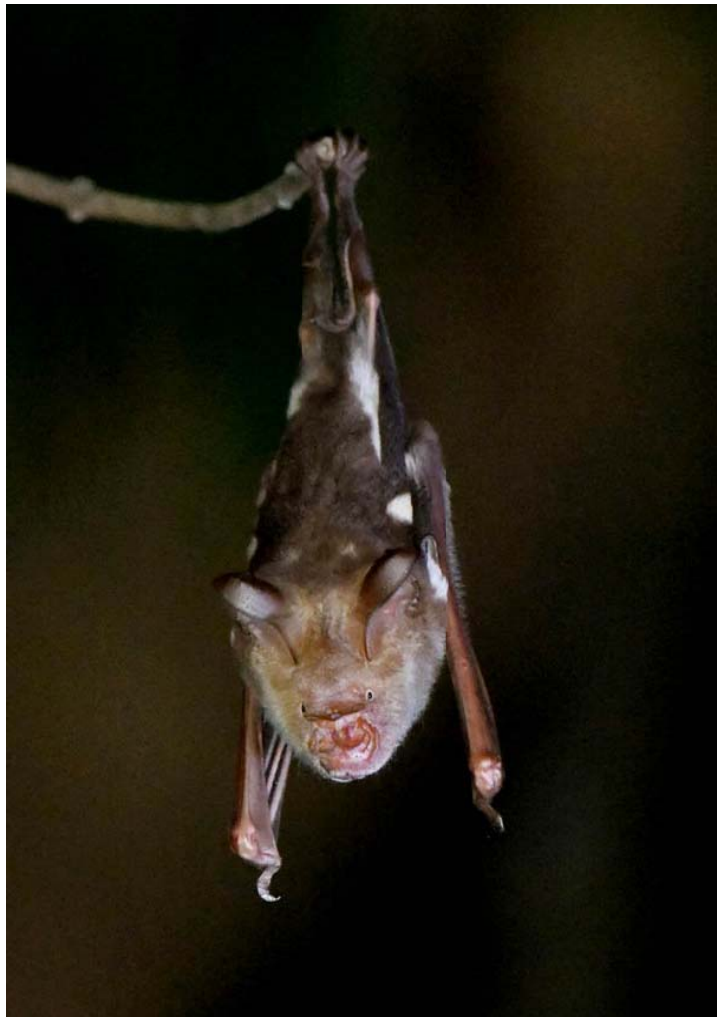


Fig. 1. Dorso-frontal view of the bat suspended from the tip of a twig.

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Although widespread throughout Peninsular Malaysia, and recorded from localities in all states, including the islands of Pulau Langkawi and Pulau Pinang (V.-C. Lim et al., 2017: 23), there appears to be no record of the species from the island of Pulau Tioman (B. L. Lim et al., 1999; Csorba et al., 1997). Hence, the present record could be the first from the island.

References:

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- Lim, B. L., Lim, K. K. P. & H. S. Yong (1999). The terrestrial mammals of Pulau Tioman, Peninsular Malaysia, with a catalogue of specimens at the Raffles Museum, National University of Singapore. *The Raffles Bulletin of Zoology Supplement No. 6*: 101-123.
- Lim, V.-C., Ramli, R., Bhassu, S. & J.-J. Wilson (2017). A checklist of the bats of Peninsular Malaysia and progress towards a DNA barcode reference library. *PLoS ONE* 12 (7): 1-65, e0179555.
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0179555>.