

A new record of the microbat *Hipposideros obscurus* (Mammalia: Hipposideridae) (Peters, 1861) from Leyte, Philippines

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ABSTRACT

The microbat *Hipposideros obscurus* is recorded for the first time in Leyte. Measurements and information on prey are presented.

Keywords: Bats, biogeography, feeding ecology, *Hipposideridae*, Philippines

The occurrence of the bat *Hipposideros obscurus* has so far been only recorded in Catanduanes, Dinagat, Luzon, Mindanao and Maripipi (Heaney et al., 1991; Rickart et al., 1993). However, one female specimen was collected in May 1994 along Lago-Lago River, west of the Visayas State College of Agriculture (ViSCA), Baybay, Leyte at about 40 m above sea level. The habitat was formed by secondary growth, mainly consisting of figs (*Ficus*), bananas (*Musa*) and a dense herbaceous ground cover.

The specimen shows a uniform dark brown pelage, and has two conspicuous pubic nipples. The measurements are as follows:

External (mm):

Total length:	77
Ear:	18
Tail length:	22
Forearm:	44.5

Hindfoot:	10
Weight (g):	10
Skull (mm):	
Condylolincisive length:	16.2
Rostral length:	4.9
Condyllocanine length:	15.8
C1 to last M:	6.4
Zygomatic breadth:	10.3
Molariform toothrow:	5.5
Interorbital width:	2.6
Mastoid breadth:	9.5
Palatal breadth at last M:	5.0
Palatal length:	5.7
Orbital length:	6.6

Specimens taken by Rickart et al. (1993) from Maripipi are slightly smaller in some parameters. For species determination the key of Ingle and Heaney (1992) was used.

The bat was caught in a mist net set across a trail at dusk (between 5.50 and 6.10 p.m.). The

capture height was 0.4 m. Analysis of fecal pellets and parts of insects found in the mouth proved that its main prey were beetles (Coleoptera) of the families Carabidae, Scarabaeidae and Chrysomelidae. Scales of moths (Lepidoptera) and one head capsule, possibly of cricket (Ensifera?) were also found. To determine the insect remnants the key of Whitaker (1988) was used. The huge number of ingested insects which are predominantly living on the ground, and the vegetation suggest that *Hipposideros obscurus* may be a gleaning insectivore. In the same habitat, at least two more microbats live conspecific: *Hipposideros diadema griseus* and *Megaderma spasma spasma*.

The specimen is housed in the ViSCA Museum under the field number G.5/5/94.

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