

Whiskered myotis roosting at Upper Thomson

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Subjects: Whiskered myotis, *Myotis muricola* (Mammalia: Chiroptera: Vespertilionidae).

Subjects identified by: Author.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Upper Thomson Road near junction of Yio Chu Kang Road; 25 July 2017 and 6 August 2017; between 1900 and 2000 hrs.

Habitat: Roosts were in ornamental banana plants, in a garden plot two metres away from a swimming pool (Fig. 1). The plot was located within a concrete apartment building complex in suburban area, next to the eastern boundary of the Central Catchment Nature Reserve.

Observer: Author.

Observations: Bats were observed roosting within the rolled up young leaves of the ornamental banana plants. They were first seen on 25 July 2017. Three bats were recorded in one leaf and eight bats were found in another leaf. A bat was photographed on 6 August 2017 at 1940 hrs as it emerged from its roost in one of the leaves (Fig. 2). The bats exit their roost between 1915 and 1940 hrs just before and after dusk. The first bat to exit the roost circled around a nearby grass lawn until it was joined by a few others. By 1945 hrs, no bats were seen in the vicinity.

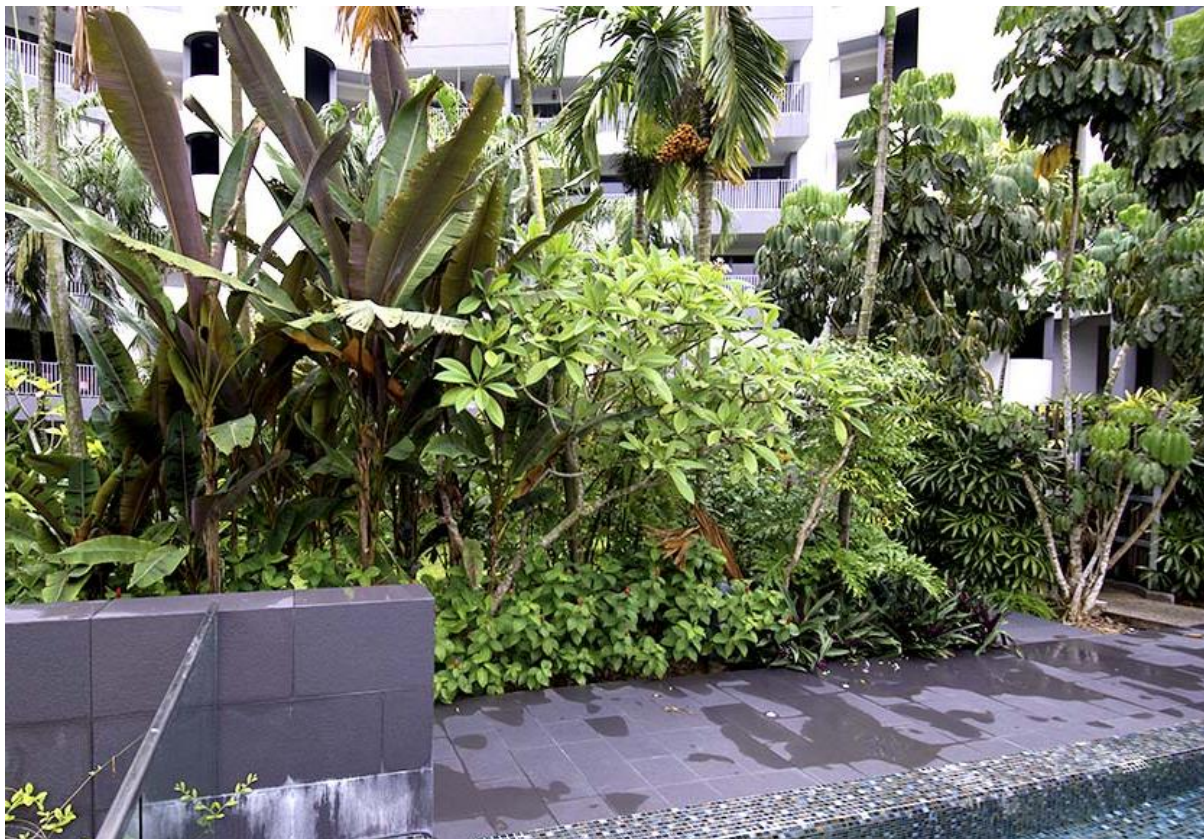


Fig. 1. Setting of the garden plot where the banana plants (left) were planted. Photograph by Nick Baker



Fig. 2. Lateral view of one of the bats flying out of a rolled banana leaf on the right. Photograph by Nick Baker

Remarks: The whiskered myotis is believed to be a common and widespread species in Singapore with the tendency to roost inside the rolled central leaves of banana plants (Baker & Lim, 2012: 148) as shown in the featured observation. A roost may contain from one to ten individuals, and the species also occasionally roost at the entrance of caves that are covered by vegetation. This bat tends to forage in tree-fall gaps and at the edge of vegetation (Kingston et al., 2006: 128-129).

References:

- Baker, N. & K. K. P. Lim, 2012. *Wild Animals of Singapore. A Photographic Guide to Mammals, Reptiles, Amphibians and Freshwater Fishes*. Updated edition. Draco Publishing and Distribution Pte. Ltd. and Nature Society (Singapore). 180 pp.
- Kingston, T., B. L. Lim & A. Zubaid, 2006. *Bats of Krau Wildlife Reserve*. Penerbit Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. 145 pp.