

## First record of the big-eared pipistrelle in Singapore

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**Subject:** Big-eared pipistrelle, *Hypsugo macrotis* (Mammalia: Chiroptera: Vespertilionidae).

**Subject identified by:** Benjamin P.Y.-H. Lee, in consultation with Gábor Csorba. Identified from the attached photographs (Fig. 1-3).

**Location, date and time:** Pulau Ubin, Chek Jawa Wetlands; 8 December 2017; 2230 hrs.

**Habitat:** Intertidal sand and mud flats.

**Observer:** Chung Yi Fei.

**Observation:** An example was caught in a mist net set up for shorebirds. It was determined to be an adult male, and the following measurements were taken: forearm: 31.9 mm, tail: 20.0 mm, ear: 11.5 mm, weight: 4.3 g. The bat was released thereafter. The specimen is herein illustrated with dorsal (Fig. 1), ventral (Fig. 2), and ventrolateral (Fig. 3) views.

**Remarks:** Diagnostic characters of *Hypsugo macrotis* include the large, broad ears, and the whitish, translucent wings (Fig. 1-3). The morphologically similar white-winged pipistrelle, *Hypsugo vordermanni*, which occurs on Borneo and Biliton Island, also has large ears and white wings, but is smaller (fore-arm length to 30 mm) and has a relatively longer skull (Francis, 2008: 242 as *Pipistrellus vordermanni*; Lim et al., 2016: 172).

*Hypsugo macrotis* is a poorly known and apparently rare bat species that is recorded from Indonesia (Bali; Lombok; Sumatra at Padang, Enggano Island and Nias; and possibly Java), and Peninsular Malaysia (Selangor and Seremban in Negeri Sembilan). The species is known from several habitats. It has been netted around lowland rainforest, in a plantation, and feeding low over coastal lagoons and open mudflats near mangroves (Francis, 2008: 242; Görföl et al. 2016; Lim L.-S. et al., 2016: 170, 176). In Seremban, a maternity colony of between 10 and 20 individuals was found roosting in a school building in the centre of the city (Lim et al., 2016: 175).

This the first record of *Hypsugo macrotis* from Singapore (see Baker & Lim, 2012: 156-171). It lends support to Woodruff & Turner (2009) who predicted the species to occur till the southern end of the Malay Peninsula. It also suggests that *Hypsugo macrotis* may not be as rare as it seems if more surveys on bat diversity are conducted in coastal areas.

### References:

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Fig. 1. Dorsal view of *Hypsugo macrotis*.



Fig. 2. Ventral view.



Fig. 3. Vento-lateral view (image tilted 90° to the right).

Photographs by Chung Yi Fei