

An albino lesser dog-faced fruit bat

Subjects: Lesser dog-faced fruit bat, *Cynopterus brachyotis* (Mammalia: Chiroptera; Pteropodidae).

Subjects identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Mandai Lake Road, compound of the Singapore Zoo; 22 February 2016; 1633 hrs.

Habitat: Sub-urban. In the roof of a sheltered walkway linking low buildings located next to disturbed forest.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: A female in a colony of at least eight fruit bats suspended in the roof was observed nursing and tending to her young. The pup is distinctly unusual in that it has white pelage, and pink ears and digits. The white-coloured child is clinging to the underside of its normal-coloured mother in the centre of the accompanying picture.

Remarks: The lesser dog-faced fruit bat is a common and widespread chiropteran in Singapore (Baker & Lim, 2012: 144). The juvenile fruit bat featured here appears to be an albino. Such mutations seem to be uncommon, and the present example could be the first reported from Singapore.

Reference: 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 & Distribution Pte. Ltd. and Nature Society (Singapore). 180 pp.



Photograph by Jessica G. H. Lee

Contributor: Jessica G.H. Lee
Contact address: jessica.lee@wrs.com.sg