Vespertilionidae

Plain-faced bats

Glauconycteris variegata

Variegated butterfly bat

Genus: *Glauconycteris* **Family:** Vespertillionidae

Description

Glauconycteris variegate is an attractive small bat. The pelage colour is usually yellowish or pale fawn on the upper parts and pale cream below, and the individual hairs are tricoloured with a dark base, cream middle, and light brown or yellow tip. The wings are characteristically patterned and are pale yellow with distinct dark reticulations. The face is plain, without any noseleafs. The ears are small, light brown with a short tragus with a rounded tip.

Distribution

Glauconycteris variegate occurs widely, but patchily, in the eastern and northern parts of the region. It has been recorded from the northern KwaZulu-Natal coast, north through southern Mozambique, extreme northeastern South Africa to Zimbabwe, northern Botswana and Namibia, Zambia, southern Malawi, southern DRC, and from isolated sites in Angola.

Habitat

Glauconycteris variegate is a savannah or open woodland species, often associated with riparian or coastal forest in southern Africa.

Ecology

Diet

Glauconycteris variegate is a clutter-edge forager and its diet mainly consists of Lepidoptera.

Reproduction

In Zimbabwe, a female carrying a single young was captured in November.

Roosting behaviour

This species roosts singly or in pairs in dense foliage.

Status

Least concern

Laephotis botswanae

Botswana long-eared bat

Genus: *Laephotis* **Family:** Vespertillionidae

Description

Laephotis botswanae is a small bat and it is very similar in size and appearance to other member of the genus *Laephotis* and cannot be reliably separated on external characters. The pelage is buffy-brown on the upper parts and slightly paler on the underparts. The individual hairs are long and bicoloured with a dark base and pale tip. The wings are dark brown. The face is plain, without any noseleafs. The ears are brown and long, with the large triangular tragus characteristic of *Laephotis.* The sexes are alike.

Distribution

Laephotis botswanae occurs in widely but sparsely in the northern parts of the region. It occurs in South Africa, north to Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, northern Botswana, and the Caprivi of Namibia, with isolated records from south-western Angola, the extreme south of the DRC and KwaZulu-Natal.

Habitat

This species appears to be associated with open woodland and savannah habitats, where it has been netted near water.

Ecology

Diet

Laephotis botswanae has been recorded feeding on Coleoptera, Lepidoptera and Trichoptera.

Reproduction

No reproductive information is available for southern Africa.

Roosting behaviour

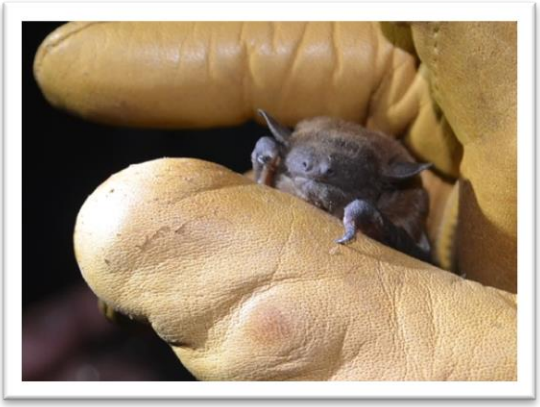
There is no information available on roosting behaviour.

Status

Least concern

Mimetillus thomasi

Thomas's flat-headed bat



Genus: *Mimetillus* **Family:** Vespertillionidae

Description

Mimetillus thomasi is a small bat with a short, sleek and dark brown pelage with individual hairs unicoloured. The face is plain, without any noseleafs, and has a stout muzzle owing to the broad and flattened skull. There is a wide swollen pad on each upper lip between the nostril and the eye. The ears are small with a characteristic club-like tragus. The wing is short and very narrow, owing to the reduction in the length of the third and fifth digits.

Distribution

Mimetillus thomasi has been sparsely recorded from the northern parts of the region. It is known from Zinave National Park in southern Mozambique, Zambia and adjoining parts of the DRC, and in central Angola.

Habitat

This species appears to be associated with the moist miombo belt of south-central Africa.

Ecology

Diet

Mimetillus thomasi is a clutter-edge forager and feeds on small insects such as Isoptera.

Reproduction

There is no reproductive information available for southern Africa. In East Africa, *Mimetillus thomasi* appears to breed twice a year, giving birth during the rains.

Roosting behaviour

The flattened skull and lateral position of the mammae suggest adaptations for crevice roosting in the small bats.

Status

Least concern

Myotis bocagii

Rufous myotis

Genus: *Myotis* **Family:** Vespertillionidae

Description

Myotis bocagii is a small bat with a coppery to orange pelage above and cream with a rufous wash below. The individual hairs are long and stand away from the body, giving the fur a soft feel, and are dark at their base and strikingly coppery-red at their tips.

Distribution

Myotis bocagii is sparsely distributed in the eastern and far northern parts of the region. It occurs from eastern KwaZulu-Natal, through eastern Swaziland and northeastern South Africa to the eastern half of Zimbabwe. It has also been recorded in southern Malawi and neighbouring northern Mozambique, the extreme northwest of Zambia, southern DRC, and northern Angola. It is probably more widely distributed than shown in the map, and may have been overlooked in much of Mozambique and eastern Zambia, and is probably widespread in northern Angola.

Habitat

This species seems to be associated with low-lying wetlands within a savanna or woodland vegetation matrix.

Ecology

Diet

Myotis bocagii has broad wings with low wing loading and low aspect ratio. It is a clutter-edge and clutter forager. It feeds mainly on Coleoptera, Hemiptera, Diptera and Lepidoptera**.**

Reproduction

No reproductive information is available for southern Africa.

Roosting behaviour

Its roosting habits are not known in southern Africa; however, in West Africa it has been captured in furled banana leaves. In northern Mozambique, it has been netted in a banana plantation where it was probably roosting.

Status

Least concern

Myotis tricolor

Temminck's myotis

Genus: *Myotis* **Family:** Vespertillionidae

Description

Myotis tricolor is a small bat and is very similar in appearance to the even smaller M. bocagii. It is coppery to orange above and slightly paler below and the individual hairs are long and stand away from the body, giving the fur a soft feel. The individual hairs are dark at their base and coppery-red at their tips. The wings are relatively broad, dark brown and contrast with the bright body. The face is plain, without any noseleafs. The ears are brown and moderately sized, with a long, narrow tragus.

Distribution

Myotis tricolor is widely distributed over the eastern part of the interior of the region. It occurs from Cape Town in the southwest of South Africa, east along the coast to the Eastern Cape, the north through Lesotho and the Free State to northern South Africa and east to western KwaZulu-Natal and Swaziland. It has also ben recorder from mostly mountainous areas in south-western and eastern Zimbabwe, central Mozambique, northern Zambia, southern DRC and Malawi.

Habitat

This species is restricted to areas with suitable caves, which may explain its absence from flat and featureless terrain; its close association with mountainous areas may therefore be due to its roosting requirements.

Ecology

Diet

Myotis tricolor is restricted to capturing aerial prey. It is a clutter edge forager. Its diet includes Coleoptera, Hemiptera, Diptera, Neuroptera and Hymenoptera.

Reproduction

In KwaZulu-Natal, copulation occurred in April, followed by a period of sperm storage by the female until fertilisation in September and parturition in November-December. The lactation period is about six weeks. Females congregate at maternity roosts, where each one fives birth to single young.

Roosting behaviour

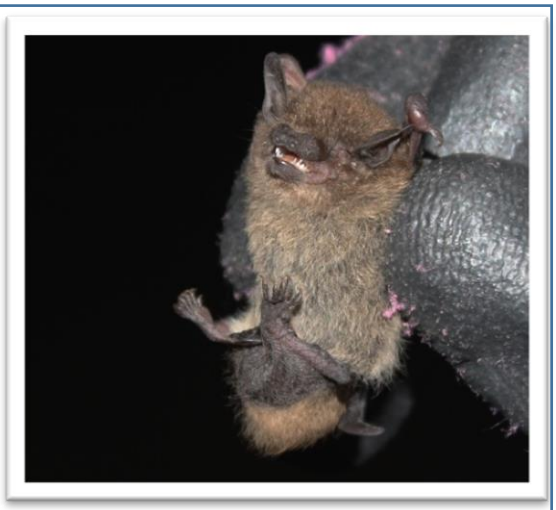
Myotis tricolor roosts gregariously in caves. It switches between winter hibernacula and summer maternity caves, where it may congregate in groups of up to 1,500 individuals.

Status

Least concern

Neoromicia capensis

Cape serotine



Genus: *Neoromicia* **Family:** Vespertillionidae

Description

Neoromicia capensis is a small bat and the pelage varies considerably from pale to dark brown above and paler grey-brown or off-white below. The hairs are bicoloured, with a dark base and paler tip. The wings are relatively short, broad, dark brown to black. The face is plain, without any noseleafs. The ears are dark brown and rounded, with a short, broad tragus.

Distribution

Neoromicia capensis may have the most widespread distribution of any southern African bat occurring throughout the region. It appears to be genuinely absent or rare over much of Mozambique.

Habitat

The species appears to tolerate a wide range of environmental conditions from arid semi-desert areas to montane grasslands (up to 1,600m above sea level), forests, and savannas. However, it appears to be less abundant in low-lying, hot savannas in the far east of the region.

Ecology

Diet

Neoromicia capensis is a clutter-edge forager. Its diet may vary seasonally and geographically and comprises aerial prey such as Coleoptera, Hemiptera, Diptera, Lepidoptera and Neuroptera.

Reproduction

Neoromicia capensis females have a single oestrus period and birth period; young are born during the warm, wet summer months. Mating takes place from the end of March until the beginning of April. Spermatozoa are stored in uterine horns of the female from April until August, when ovulation and fertilisation occurs. They give birth to twins during late October and November. Although twins are common, singletons, triplets and even quadruplets have been recorded. Reproductively active males secrete a white fluid from the facial glands.

Roosting behaviour

Neoromicia capensis roosts singly or in small groups of two or three individuals under the bark of trees, at the base of aloe leaves, and under the roofs of houses. In Zimbabwe, large colonies (at least 100 individuals) have been found roosting in houses, above the ceiling over a veranda.

Status

Least concern

Neoromicia zuluensis

Zulu serotine

Genus: *Neoromicia* **Family:** Vespertillionidae

Description

Neoromicia zuluensis is a very small bat. The pelage is grey-brown to dark brown above and paler greyish or off-white below and the hairs are bicoloured, with a dark base and paler tip. The wings are relatively short, broad, dark brown to black. The face is plain, without any noseleafs. The ears are dark brown, triangular, but rounded at the tip, with a short tragus that is narrower than that of *N.capensis*.

Distribution

Neoromicia zuluensis is widespread in the northern parts of the region. It occurs from northern KwaZulu-Natal and Swaziland, north through the extreme northeast of South Africa, to Zimbabwe, northern Botswana, northern and north-eastern Namibia, Zambia, southern Malawi, and central and northern Mozambique.

Habitat

The species appears to be associated with woodland and savannah

Ecology

Diet

Neoromicia zuluensis feeds on Coleoptera and, to a lesser extent, Lepidoptera. Their faeces may contain vegetative matter.

Reproduction

Young are born towards the end of November and the first half of December.

Roosting behaviour

Neoromicia capensis roosting sites are not well known.

Status

Least concern

Neoromicia nana

Banana bat

Genus: *Neoromicia* **Family:** Vespertillionidae

Description

Neoromicia nana is a very small bat, weighing only around 4g. The pelage varies considerably from light to dark brown or reddish-brown above and paler buffy-brown to grey-brown below. The hairs are bicoloured, with a dark base and paler tip. The wings are relatively short, broad, dark brown to black. At the base of each thumb, there is a well-developed callous that is swollen and resembles a suction pad. The soles of the feet are similarly calloused and swollen. These two features allow the bat to cling to smooth leaf surfaces.

Distribution

Neoromicia nana occurs widely in the wetter eastern and northern parts of the region, but is absent from the arid southwest. It has been recorded from the Eastern Cape, north through KwaZulu-Natal, Swaziland, southern Mozambique and northern South Africa to Zimbabwe, Zambia, northern Botswana, northeast Namibia, southern DRC, Malawi, central/northern Mozambique. It is also known from western/central Angola.

Habitat

The species appears to be associated with well-wooded habitats such as riparian vegetation and forest patches, especially in the proximity of water.

Ecology

Diet

Neoromicia nana feeds on Coleoptera and to a lesser extent Lepidoptera.

Reproduction

Most births involve twins. In Malawi, sperm production occurs between February and September, during which time the testes of all males become scrotal. Spermatozoa are released into the cauda epididymis at the beginning of the cool-dry season (May). Thereafter, they begin to live with one or more adult females. Mating begins in mid-June and all females have mated by early July. Spermatozoa are stored by the females until ovulation and fertilisation takes place in late August to early September. Sperm competition may occur in this species, more than one male may mate with each female and so the twins may have different fathers. Lactation lasts for about 8 weeks and young are suckled until mid-January. Young are reproductive mature in time for the next breeding season.

Roosting behaviour

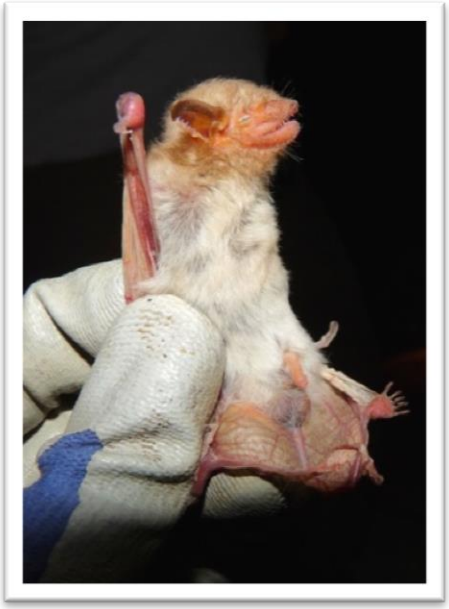
It specially roosts in furled banana leaves, hence its common name. Males roost singly, except during the mating season when they form harem groups. Lactating females roost with their offspring or in maternity groups. It is not, however, restricted to banana leaves, and may roost in the leaves of other plants, as well in roofs, in particular those constructed of thatch or palms leaves.

Status

Least concern

Neoromicia rendalli

Rendall's serotine



Genus: *Neoromicia* **Family:** Vespertillionidae

Description

Neoromicia rendalli is a small bat with conspicuously white and translucent wings membranes. The individual hairs on the underparts are long and have dark bases with pure white tips, while those on the very edge of the flanks are pure white throughout.

Distribution

Neoromicia rendalli has a very patchy distribution in southern Africa and occurs at a few widely separated locations. It has been recorded from Bonamanzi Game Reserve in KwaZulu-Natal, Palmiera in souther Mozambique, Chiromo in southern Malawi, Mana Pools National Park in northern Zimbabwe, the Okavango Delta in northern Botswana, The southern DRC, and south-central Zambia.

Habitat

The species occurs in woodland savannah habitats, but is closely associated with water. All southern specimens appear to have been netter at or near large rivers or wetlands.

Ecology

Diet

There is no information on the diet of *Neoromicia rendalli* in southern Africa. In Kenya, its diet comprise mainly Lepidoptera.

Reproduction

In KwaZulu-Natal, a pregnant and lactating female with two foetuses was taken in December.

Roosting behaviour

Nothing is known about its roosting behaviour in southern Africa. Elsewhere in its range, it roost singly or in small groups in thatched roofs or dense vegetation, including in the dense fronds of the palm trees.

Status

Least concern

Nycticeinops schlieffeni

Schlieffen's twilight bat

Genus: *Nycticeinops* **Family:** Vespertillionidae

Description

Nycticeinops schlieffeni is a small bat with a bright, gingery to fawn-brown pelage above and paler below. The individual hairs are unicoloured, setting this bat apart from similar-sized pipistrelle species. The wings are relatively broad, dark brown and contrast with the pale body. The face is plain, without any noseleafs and the muzzle is relatively broad.

Distribution

Nycticeinops schlieffeni occurs widely in the eastern and northern parts of the regions, but is absent from the arid west and from the tropical forests of the extreme north. It has been recorded from northern KwaZulu-Natal and eastern Swaziland, north through northern South Africa to Zimbabwe, Zambia, central and northern Mozambique, Malawi, and the southern DRC. An isolated populations occurs in northern Namibia. The occurrence of *N.schlieffeni* may have been overlooked in much of southern and eastern Angola.

Habitat

Nycticeinops schlieffeni appears to be closely associated with low-lying savannahs, where it may be abundant in well-wooded places such as riparian vegetation along rivers and drainage lines.

Ecology

Diet

It is a clutter-edge forager where it feeds on aerial insects such as Coleoptera, Diptera, Lepidoptera, Trichoptera and Hymenoptera.

Reproduction

In South Africa, copulation occurred in June, followed by a period of sperm storage by the female, until fertilisation in August and parturition in November. Females give birth to up to three young at a time.

Roosting behaviour

The species roosts in crevices in trees and in houses.

Status

Least concern

Pipistrellus rueppellii

Ruppell's pipistrelle

Genus: *Pipistrellus* **Family:** Vespertillionidae

Description

Pipistrellus rueppelllii is a small bat and distinctive white underparts. The pelage varies geographically; most bats in the region have deep sepia upper parts and the individual hairs have a dark base and paler tips; in northern Botswana, however, the upper parts are pale grey-brown. The underparts are pure white with unicoloured individual hairs; there is a clear demarcation between the white underparts and the darker upper parts. The wings are relatively short, broad and pale brown..

Distribution

Pipistrellus rueppellii occurs widely across the northern parts of the region. It has been recorded from the Northern Kruger National Park through Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, southern DRC, northern Botswana and west to Angola and the extreme north of Namibia.

Habitat

Pipistrellus rueppellii appears to be associated with large rivers and wetlands in dry savannah or woodland habitats.

Ecology

Diet

Pipistrellus rueppellii is a clutter-edge forager. In the Kruger National Park, their diet consists of Coleoptera, while at Sengwa, Zimbabwe, it comprises of Coleoptera, Lepidoptera, Trichoptera and Diptera. This bat often hunts over open water; individuals were observed gleaning floating insects off the water surface and some individuals were observed landing in water.

Reproduction

There is no reproductive information available for this species.

Roosting behaviour

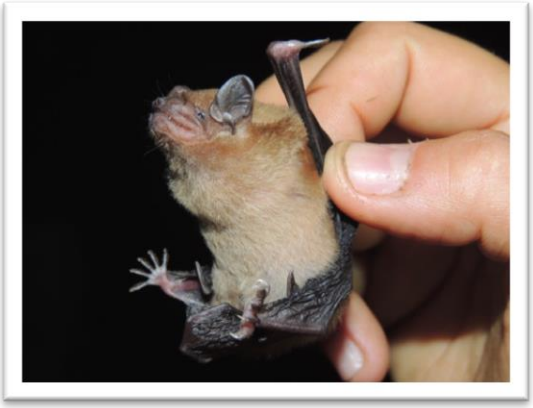
The roosting habits of this species are not known.

Status

Least concern

Pipistrellus grandidieri

Dobson's pipistrelle



Genus: *Pipistrellus* **Family:** Vespertillionidae

Description

Pipistrellus grandidieri is a rare bat, whose taxonomic status has been shrouded in obscurity for well over a century. The pelage above is pale to medium brown, somewhat short and unicoloured, much as in *Nycticeinops schlieffeni.* The wings, tail membrane and ears are dark brown.

Distribution

Just six records are known for region, one from Malawi, two from Angola and three from the southern DRC.

Ecology

Diet

There is no information on the diet or foraging behaviour of this species.

Reproduction

In Tanzania, pregnancies occurred in late January and early February.

Roosting behaviour

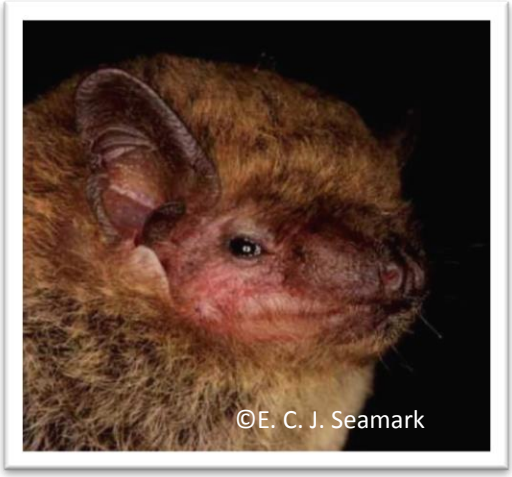
The roosting habits of this species are not known.

Status

Not evaluated

Pipistrellus rusticus

Rusty pipistrelle



Genus: *Pipistrellus* **Family:** Vespertillionidae

Description

Pipistrellus rusticus is a very small bat and is very similar in appearance to the slightly larger *Pipistrellus hesperidus*. The pelage is pale rust above and paler greyish-rust below. The

individual hairs are bicoloured, with a dark base and pale tip. The wings are relatively short, broad and dark brown to black.

Distribution

Pipistrellus rusticus is widely distributed in the northern and central parts of the region. It occurs from northern and central parts of the region. It occurs from northern South Africa north to Zimbabwe, northern Botswana, western Zambia and north-eastern Namabia, with an isolated population in Malawi.

Habitat

Pipistrellus rusticus occurs in savannah woodland, where it is associated with open water bodies, bit is absent from moist moimbo woodland and arid savannah. In the Limpopo valley, this species is locally common in mopane woodland where rocky habitat (Clarens sandstone) is also present.

Ecology

Diet

Pipistrellus rusticus is a clutter-edge forager. Its diet consists of Coleoptera, Diptera and Lepidoptera.

Reproduction

In Limpopo, South Africa, copulation occurs in April. Thereafter, in spite of an apparent absence of winter hibernation in this species, females store sperm for five months, after which ovulation and fertilisation occur in August and September. Following gestation in eight weeks, twins are born in November.

Roosting behaviour

Its roosting habits are not well known, but it has been collected in crevices in trees.

Status

Least concern

Pipistrellus hesperidus

Dusky pipistrelle

Genus: *Pipistrellus* **Family:** Vespertillionidae

Description

Pipistrellus hesperidus is a small bat and is very similar in appearance to the slightly smaller *Pipistrellus rusticus*. The pelage varies from light to dark brown above and greyish-brown to buffy-white below. The individual hairs on the back are bicoloured, with a dark base and light brown tip, while those on the underparts have a dark base with creamish tips. The wings are relatively short, broad and dark brown to black.

Distribution

Pipistrellus hesperidus occurs widely in the eastern parts of the regions. It has been recorded from Eastern Cape, north through KwaZulu-Natal, Swaziland and northern South Africa, to Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and northern Mozambique. Single records from the Okavango, northern Botswana, and from Boshof in the western Free State indicate that this species probably has a broader distribution than previously thought and has therefore been widely overlooked.

Habitat

Pipistrellus rusticus appears to be associated with well-wooded locations such as riparian vegetation and forest patches, especially in the proximity of water.

Ecology

Diet

Pipistrellus rusticus is a clutter-edge forager. Its diet consists of Coleoptera, Hemiptera, Diptera and Lepidoptera.

Reproduction

A pregnant female with two foetuses was collected In KwaZulu-Natal in October.

Roosting behaviour

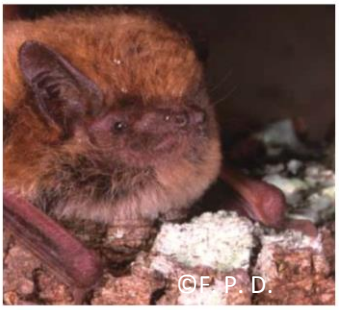
Its roosting habits are not well known, but it has been collected in a narrow crack in exfoliating granitic rock, where there was a small group of about 12 bats. Other specimens were found under the loose bark of dead trees.

Status

Least concern

Hypsugo anchietae

Anchieta's pipistrelle



Genus: *Hypsugo* **Family:** Vespertillionidae

Description

Hypsygo anchieta is a small bat and is very similar in size and appearance to *Pipistrellus hesperidus.* The pelage colour is dark brown above and greyish-brown below. The individual hairs on the back are bicoloured, with a dark base and light brown tip. The wings are short, broad and dark brown.

Distribution

Hypsygo anchieta occurs widely but sparsely in the region. It has been recorded from coastal KwaZulu-Natal and eastern Swaziland, north through northern South Africa to Zimbabwe and western Zambia, with isolated records from central Mozambique, northern Botswana and western Angola.

Habitat

Hypsugo anchieta is collected predominantly in well-wooded locations such as riparian vegetation, especially when nets and harp traps are placed above water. Hence, its inferred habitat is riparian forest in savannah and woodland. It is locally common along the riparian fringe of large rivers in southern Zimbabwe.

Ecology

Diet

This species is a clutter-edge and clutter forager. At Sudwala caves, Mpumalanga, its diet comprised Hemiptera, Diptera and Coleoptera.

Reproduction

A pregnant female with two foetuses was collected in October in KwaZulu-Natal.

Roosting behaviour

There is no information available on roosting behaviour.

Status

Least concern

Pipistrellus nanulus

Tiny pipistrelle

No photo

Genus: *Pipistrellus* **Family:** Vespertillionidae

Description

Pipistrellus nanulus is a tiny bat, typically weighing less than 5g. The pelage is reddish-brown above and off-white below. The individual hairs are unicoloured above but bicoloured below, being dark at the base and whitish at the tips. The ears are characteristically small and rounded with a relatively straight-sided tragus.

Distribution

In southern Africa, *Pipistrellus nanulus* is only known from one locality in the southern DRC, although it is widely distributed in equatorial Africa. In West Africa it occurs from Senegal, Sierra Leone and Liberia in the west through Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana to Cameroon and Gabon. An isolated population occurs in East Africa in Uganda and Kenya.

Habitat

In its range it is typically associated with tropical rainforest.

Ecology

Diet

No information on diet or foraging is available for southern Africa.

Reproduction

No reproductive information is available for southern Africa.

Roosting behaviour

There is no information available on roosting behaviour.

Status

Least concern

Scotoecus albofuscus

Thomas's house bat

Genus: *Scoteocus* **Family:** Vespertillionidae

Description

Scoteocus albofuscus is a small bat with short sleek fur and a pale buffy-brown pelage; the individual hairs are unicoloured and the underparts are paler cream-brown or off-white. The wing membranes are translucent or white. The face is plain, without any noseleafs, and the muzzle is stout owing to the broad and flattened skull. The ears are relatively long with a characteristically club-like tragus. Males have an extremely long penis (>25% of head and body length).

Distribution

Scoteocus ablofuscus has been sparsely recorded from the eastern parts of the region. It is known from St Lucia, a suburb of Durban, from Zinave National Park in southern Mozambique, Lusaka in Zambia, Moba in the DRC, and Chiromo in Malawi.

Habitat

This species appears to be associated with low-lying, humid savannahs of the coastal plains of Mozambique and northern KwaZulu-Natal, especially where large rivers or wetlands occur. The Malawi specimen was taken from the leaves of a *Hyphaene* palm tree in a forest.

Ecology

Diet

Scoteocus albofuscus is a clutter-edge and open-air forager. Its diet consists mainly of Hemiptera, but also includes Diptera and Coleoptera.

Reproduction

In southern Africa, a pregnant female collected in November gave birth to twins.

Roosting behaviour

There is no information available on roosting behaviour.

Status

Least concern

Scotoecus hindei/albigula

Dark winged lesser housebat

Genus: *Scoteocus* **Family:** Vespertillionidae

Description

Scoteocus hidei/albigula is an unresolved species complex and the taxonomy of these dark-winged species of Scotoecus is still in dispute.

The pelage is pale sandy-brown to medium brown on the upper parts and the individual hairs are unicoloured. The underparts are white with a clear demarcation between the upper and lower parts. Males have an extremely long penis (>25% of head and body length) up to 21mm long.

Distribution

Scoteocus ablofuscus has been sparsely recorded from the northern and eastern parts of the region. It is known from the vicinity of Zinave National Park, southern Mozambique, northern Mozambique, southern Malawi, eastern and western Zambia, extreme southern DRC, and Angola

Habitat

In Southern Africa, most records are from low-lying woodlands and savannahs, particularly in the vicinity of rivers or wetlands.

Ecology

Diet

There is no information on the diet and foraging behaviour of this species in southern Africa.

Reproduction

No reproductive information is available for southern Africa.

Roosting behaviour

There is no information available on roosting behaviour.

Status

Data deficient

Scotophilus dinganii

Yellow-bellied house bat

Genus: *Scotophilus* **Family:** Vespertillionidae

Description

Scotophilus dinganii is a medium-sized bat with a brown to dark brown pelage above and bright yellow or orange-yellow below. The pelage is short and sleek with individual hairs unicoloured. The wings are relatively long and dark brown. The face is plain, without any noseleafs and the ears are moderately sized, with a characteristically shaped long, narrow tragus.

Distribution

Scotophilus dinganii is widespread in the region, but absent from the plateau grassland and karoo of South Africa and the Kalahari. It has been collected from the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Swaziland, through to northern South Africa, Zimbabwe, eastern and northern Botswana, northern Namibia, Zambia and Malawi.

Habitat

This species has a wide tolerance for different environments, but it appears to be tied to the presence of trees. These bats occur throughout the savannah biome, but avoid open habitats such as grasslands and karoo scrub. Its absence from open habitats may reflect the lack of roost sites. In Zimbabwe, they are apparently absent from the plateau during the colder months of the year (June-August), but present at lower altitudes (600m above sea level) in the southeast of the country.

Ecology

Diet

Scotophilus dinganii is a clutter-edge forager. Its diet comprises mainly medium-sized Coleoptera, but may also include Hemiptera, Hymenoptera, Isoptera and Diptera.

Reproduction

Scotophilus dinganii is seasonally monoestrus, giving birth to between one and three young (typically twins) between November and December. Reproduction is delayed by a period of delayed embryonic implantation from late April until July.

Roosting behaviour

It roosts during the day in a variety of shelters, including holes in trees and roofs of houses.

Status

Least concern.

Scotophilus leucogaster

White-bellied house bat

Genus: *Scotophilus* **Family:** Vespertillionidae

Description

Scotophilus leucogaster is a medium-sized bat which is very similar in appearance to *S.viridis.* The pelage is short and sleek, pale to medium brown above, but white or cream below with individual hairs unicoloured. The wings are dark brown. The face is plain, without any noseleafs and the ears are moderately sized, with a characteristically shaped long, narrow tragus.

Distribution

Scotophilus leucogaster is sparsely and discontinuously distributed in the central savannahs of the region. It occurs in northern South Africa, southern Mozambique, and southern Zimbabwe, with a separate population in northern Zimbabwe, central Mozambique, and southern Zambia, extending west to northern Botswana and Namibia. There is an isolated record from central Angola. It is also found in southern Malawi (Liwonde National Park).

Habitat

This species has a strong association with cathedral mopane woodland, especially in Limpopo, Sebungwe and Zambezi basins of Zimbabwe, where it is often the most abundant microbat.

Ecology

Diet

At Senwa Wildlife Research Station, Zimbabwe, the diet of *Scotophilus leucogaster* comprised mainly Hemiptera and Coleoptera, with Hymenoptera, Homoptera, Orthoptera, Lepidoptera and Diptera present in small number. Individuals foraged primarily over floodplains for an average of less than one hour at dusk and spent the rest of the night in small tree-cavity roosts.

Reproduction

It is reported that parturition occurs in November (one or two young may be born) and lactation in December.

Roosting behaviour

During the day, the bat roosts in a variety of shelters, including holes in trees and roofs of houses. Roosts sites may be changed regularly.

Status

Least concern.

Scotophilus viridis

Yellow house bat

Genus: *Scotophilus* **Family:** Vespertillionidae

Description

Scotophilus viridis is a medium-sized bat which is very similar in appearance to, but distinctly smaller than *S.dinganii.* The pelage is short and sleek, brown to dark brown above but the belly fur varies from light brown through to medium yellow; some specimens exhibit a bright yellow or orange-yellow venter. The ears are moderately sized, with a characteristically shaped long, narrow tragus.

Distribution

Scotophilus viridis has a restricted distribution in the region and is confined mainly to the eastern parts. Its distribution extends from eastern and northern KwaZulu-Natal through Swaziland, the Kruger National Park, Mozambique and northern Zimbabwe. It has also been collected from southern Malawi and central Zambia. A single record is known from northeast Angola. It is also found in southern Malawi (Liwonde National Park). This species is almost certainly under-sampled and will probably be shown to be more widespread in the subtropical eastern and northern parts of the region.

Habitat

It appears to be restricted to be restricted to low-lying, hot savannahs, avoiding open habitats such as grasslands. Its absence from open habitats may be due to the lack of roost sites. Many of the specimens from Zambia and Zimbabwe are associated with tall riparian woodland in the Zambezi, Luangwa and Limpopo valleys.

Ecology

Diet

It appears that the diet of *Scotophilus viridis* comprises mainly Coleoptera, Lepidoptera and Hemiptera.

Reproduction

There is no reproductive information for this species available.

Roosting behaviour

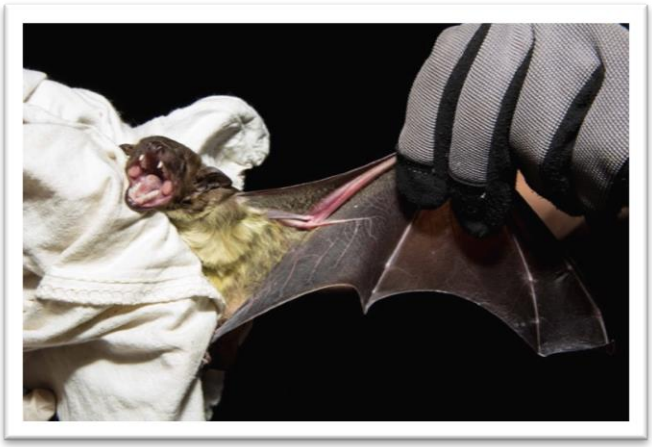
During the day, the bat roosts in a variety of shelters, including holes in trees and roofs of houses.

Status

Not evaluated

Scotophilus nigrita

Giant yellow house bat



Genus: *Scotophilus* **Family:** Vespertillionidae

Description

Scotophilus nigrita is the largest house bat, weighing over 50 grams. Their pelage is unicoloured, dark on the upper-body with sometimes a yellow, red or grey tinge. The under-parts are either yellow (in adults) or off-white (in juveniles). They have brown wing membranes and in all other appearances resemble the smaller house bats with a long tragus and a plain face without any noseleaf.

Distribution

Scotophilus nigrita is sparsely but widely distributed in Africa, marginally entering southern Africa in the east. It has been recorded from Komatipoort and Malelane in South Africa, central Mozambique, eastern Zimbabwe and Malawi. ABC were the first to catch this in central Malawi, having only before been recorded from the southern region.

Habitat

Very little is known about this species roosting or feeding habitat. ABC caught individuals flying over open floodplain in a mopane dominated area.

Ecology

Diet

One individual has been observed feeding on a very large Coleoptera.

Reproduction

There is no reproductive information for this species available.

Roosting behaviour

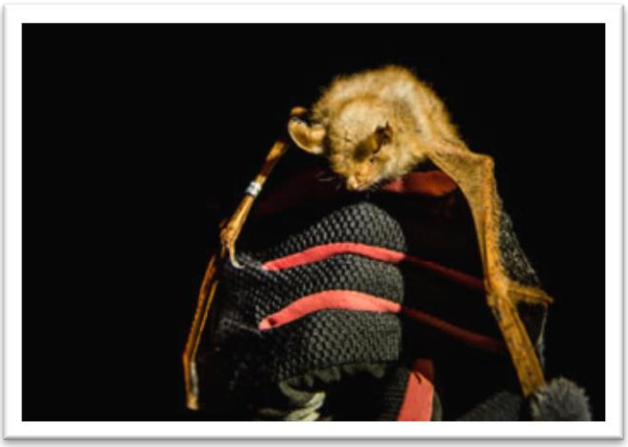
There is no roosting information for this species available except having been found roosting in bat houses.

Status

Near-threatened

Myotis welwitschii

Welwitsch's myotis



Genus: *Scotophilus* **Family:** Vespertillionidae

Description

Myotis welwitschii is a distinctive small to medium sized bat with a mass of around 15 grams. The pelage is soft and the hairs bicoloured, dark at the base and coppery/orange at the tips. The underparts are paler. The wings are strikingly black and contrast with the bright body. They copper along the finger-membranes and dotted with black spots and blotches. The face is equally as distinctive – pale dotted with black around the muzzle and with orange-brown ears edged with black.

Distribution

Myotis welwitschii is sparsely distributed over the eastern and far northern parts of the region. There are scattered records from northern South Africa, eastern Zimbabwe, Malawi, central Mozambique, northeastern Zambia, southern DRC and northern Angola.

Habitat

Very little is known about this species preferred habitats. Although considered to be tied to mountains in areas covered by woodland or woodland-forest mosaic vegetation, ABC caught individuals in lowland, open mopane woodland.

Ecology

Diet

With broad wings and a low aspect ratio, it is a clutter-edge forager. Based on limited observations in Mpumalanga, its diet comprises aerial prey such as Coleoptera and Hemiptera.

Reproduction

There is no reproductive information for this species available.

Roosting behaviour

There is no roosting information for this species available.

Status

Least Concern

Reference

Monadjem. A, T. P. (2010). *Bats of Southern and Central Africa: A Biogeographic and Taxonomic Synthesis.* Witts University Press.