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FIRST RECORD OF *HIPPOSIDEROS ATER* IN SARAWAK, MALAYSIAN BORNEO

M.T. Abdullah, Neuchlos Jub and Norhayani Jalaweh

The Family Hipposideridae or the roundleaf bat is represented by nine genera and 63 species in the world that are found from the tropical forest to the subtropics in the Old World, Africa, South Asia, the Philippines, North Australia and Vanatu (Corbet and Hill, 1992). There are six genera and 40 species found in the Indomalayan Region and in Borneo is represented by 12 species in two genera namely, *Hipposideros* and *Coelops* (Payne et al., 1985; Corbet and Hill, 1992). This group of insect bat is relatively small-sized to moderate with characteristic rounded anterior, intermediate, and posterior noseleaves; and having wide distribution throughout Indo-Malaya to Australian region (Corbet and Hill, 1992).

A survey was conducted around the Fairy Cave limestone habitat in Bau (GPS 01° 24.67' North, 110° 08.27' East) to determine the bat fauna diversity in the area. Ten mist nets were deployed in strategic locations with a harp trap placed for every two mist nets deployed. Mist nest and harp traps were regularly checked between 1830 hours and remained opened until a final check at 0600 hours the following morning.

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by

M.T. Abdullah, Neuchlos Jub and Norhayani Jalaweh

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Three specimens of *Hipposideros ater* were captured in the limestone forest area of Fairy Cave, Bau, Sarawak, Malaysia. An adult female specimen was captured on 29 July 2003 at 1900 hours in harp-trap number three located in closed canopy of a disturbed limestone forest. An adult male specimen was caught on 31 July 2003 at 1900 hours in harp-trap number five. Another adult male specimen was netted on 1 August 2003 in harp-trap number five located between narrow rock passages. The canopy covers about 80% sparse undergrowth of low shrubs, trees, and bamboo. The bats were caught about 1.50 m above the forest floor. The external body and skull measurements were taken for all specimens (Table 1).