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## **New Bat Record (Mammalia: Chiroptera) for Huevos Island, Trinidad and Tobago**

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## NATURE NOTES

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### New Bat Record (Mammalia: Chiroptera) for Huevos Island, Trinidad and Tobago

During a TTFNC overnight trip to Huevos Island, an evening bat survey was conducted on 22 February, 2014. Three 12m nets and a harp trap were set up in the dry forest north of the only house on the island and were open from 1845 until 2110 h. The first net was set up diagonally (southwest - northeast) along the side of a gully and across a dry stream bed, ending on the other side. The second net was set up (north - south) on the east side of the gully on a flat patch of ground about 4m above the dry stream bed. The third net was set up (west - east) south of the second net on the same flat ground running alongside a fallen wall that was set just before the edge of the cliff at the back of the house. The harp trap was set up farther up the gully from the first net.

During the survey, 12 bats were caught, of which three were observed but escaped the nets either during handling or before they could be extracted from the nets. Nine others were identified by use of Carter (2004), weighed, sexed, and measured by MSG. Of these nine individuals, eight were male Jamaican fruit-eating bats, *Artibeus jamaicensis*, and one was a male common big-eared bat, *Micronycteris megalotis* (Fig.1). The latter was a new species record for the island. *Micronycteris megalotis* was an adult and was identified by its greyish brown breast as opposed to the light-coloured breast of *M. minuta*, with the calcar being longer than the foot and with pronounced hair on the ears. The ears of both species are joined over the forehead, but *M. minuta* has a notched band that divides into two relatively deep triangular furrows, whereas *M. megalotis* has a shallower and less intricately designed notched band of skin that lacks triangular furrows.

*Artibeus jamaicensis* had been caught in the only previous bat survey conducted on the island in 1965 (Manuel 1967). That survey also recorded the common long-tongued bat, *Glossophaga soricina*, and greater long-tongued bat, *G. longirostris*, as well as the greater fishing bat, *Noctilio leporinus*. No sightings of *N. leporinus* were made during the 2014 trip; the water within the bay was fairly rough on the night of 22 February, 2014, which may have prevented bats from fishing.

Further studies are required on the bats of the Bocas Islands and their relationship to the species on the mainland of Trinidad.



Fig. 1. The common big-eared bat, *Micronycteris megalotis*.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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