



A new species of *Glischropus* from the Indochinese Subregion (Mammalia: Chiroptera: Vespertilionidae)

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Abstract

Within the tribe Pipistrellini, the genus *Glischropus* is very close to the genus *Pipistrellus* both in its external morphology and chromosomal features but can be unequivocally distinguished from the latter by the presence of thumb pads and the position of the second incisor. One of the two known species, *G. tylopus* was thought to have a wide distribution range from Myanmar to the Philippines, while the other, *G. javanus* is only known from Java. Recently collected Cambodian specimens of *Glischropus* are distinguished from their congeners by longer forearm and cranial features (the shape of the skull and the upper incisors and certain craniodental measurements) and are consequentially, described here as a new species. Based on thorough examination of the available museum material, it can be concluded that all specimens of *G. tylopus* previously collected in the Indochinese zoogeographic subregion are in fact representatives of this new species, while *G. tylopus* in a strict sense is restricted in the mainland to south of the Isthmus of Kra.

Key words: Southeast Asia, taxonomy, thick-thumbed Bat

Introduction

Among the Oriental bats which have developed pads at the base of the thumb and on the plantar surface of the foot, the genus *Glischropus* is distinguished by the following combination of characters: thumb pad unpigmented, elongated and developed but not forming a specialized, semicircular adhesive organ, tragus relatively narrow but broadly rounded, skull not especially flattened, the cavity of second upper incisor turned outwards, two premolars present in both upper and lower toothrows (Koopman 1994, Corbet and Hill 1992) and lower molars nyctalodont (Menu 1985).

Based on dental characters (Tate 1942, Menu 1985) and chromosome structure (Volleth *et al.* 2001) *Glischropus* is closely related to *Pipistrellus* and placed in the tribe Pipistrellini (Simmons 2005). This systematic position is supported by external features i.e. its general appearance, size and position of facial glands, shape of ear and tragus, proportions of wing bones and presence of a well-developed keel on the calcar, and agrees with recent DNA barcoding results based on mitochondrial COI sequences (Francis *et al.* 2010). The genus currently contains two species: *G. tylopus* (Dobson, 1875) and *G. javanus* Chasen, 1939 (Corbet and Hill 1992, Simmons 2005). This taxonomic arrangement was first suggested by Tate (1942) who regarded *G. batjanus* Matschie, 1901 (originally distinguished by its slightly smaller ears) as a junior synonym of *tylopus* (based on forearm length) and considered *javanus* distinct due to its larger size and differences in skull shape. Menu (1987) similarly regarded *javanus* as distinct on account of its skull morphology and certain differences in upper dentition and Koopman (1994) also noted these cranial differences viewing *javanus* as having a more flattened braincase. Corbet and Hill (1992) however, inversely characterized the two species noting the braincase of *javanus* as being more inflated than that of *tylopus*. Despite these conflicting views, all of the above authors noted that no overlap occurs in forearm length between the two species, *tylopus* being the smaller with a forearm length of no more than 31 mm.

According to the presently accepted view, *G. tylopus* occurs in Cambodia, Indonesia (Kalimantan, Maluku, Sumatera), Lao P.D.R., Malaysia (Sabah, Sarawak), Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam (Rosell-Ambal *et al.* 2008), whereas *G. javanus* is known only from two neighboring localities on Mt. Pangrango in western Java, Indonesia and has been collected on only two occasions seventy years apart (Hutson *et al.* 2008). Comparison of a