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Thumb-pads up—a new species of thick-thumbed bat from Sumatra (Chiroptera: Vespertilionidae: *Glischropus*)

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Abstract

To date, three species of the genus *Glischropus* are recognized from the Indomalayan zoogeographic region—*G. bucephalus* from the Indochinese subregion, *G. tylopus* from the Sundaic subregion (Peninsular Thailand and Malaysia, Borneo, Sumatra, Moluccas) and *G. javanus*, restricted to Java. The investigation of the holotype and three topotype specimens of *G. batjanus* supported the view that the name was previously correctly regarded as the junior subjective synonym of *G. tylopus*. During review of material recently collected in southwestern Sumatra, Indonesia, one specimen of a yet undescribed species of Thick-thumbed bat was identified. *G. aquilus* n. sp. markedly differs from its congeners by its dark brown pelage, nearly black ear and tragus, and in skull proportions. The phylogenetic analysis based on *cytb* sequences also supports the specific distinctness of *G. aquilus* n. sp. Its discovery brings the count to 88 species of bats known from Sumatra.

Key words: Bukit Barisan Selatan, Indonesia, Pipistrellini, taxonomy

Introduction

Developed pads on the thumbs and feet are found in several unrelated Southeast Asian vespertilionid genera, namely *Eudiscopus* Conisbee, 1953; *Tylonycteris* Peters, 1872; *Glischropus* Dobson, 1875; and in one species of *Hesperoptenus* Peters, 1868; and one species of *Myotis* Kaup, 1829. Based on external appearance, including ear and tragus shape, facial glands, calcar and epiblema structure (Csorba 2011), dental characters (Tate 1942; Menu 1985), chromosome structure (Volleth *et al.* 2001), and DNA barcoding gene sequences (Francis *et al.* 2010), the genus *Glischropus* is closely related to *Pipistrellus* and placed in the tribe Pipistrellini (Simmons 2005). The generic distinctness of *Glischropus* within Pipistrellini is supported by the presence of fleshy, unpigmented pads on the thumb and on the sole of the hind foot and the concavity of the second upper incisor which points directly outwards (Tate 1942; Corbet & Hill 1992; Koopman 1994; Kruskop 2013). The presence of the thickened pads is thought to be related to the roosting habits of *Glischropus* species, as specimens were captured in or near to bamboo stands (Lekagul & McNeely 1977; Csorba 2011; Kruskop 2013) or even within stalks of dead bamboo (Chasen 1939; Kofron 1994).

Until the description of *G. bucephalus*, two species of *Glischropus* were recognized from the Indomalayan

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