D-44 Ecto-parasites of Sri Lankan bats

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The foremost brief study on ecto-parasites of Sri Lankan bats was recorded by Phillips in 1924. The paucity of information since then, led us to undertake a detailed survey on ecto-parasites of cave dwelling mega- and micro-chiropterans from different regions of Sri Lanka. During the period September 1995 to April 1996, 23 locations in 9 districts, spanning all climatic (wet, intermediate, dry, arid & montane wet) zones of the country, were investigated. Eleven bat species including *Rousettus leschenaulti seminudus* (n=11) of megachiropteran family Pteropodidae and *Rhinolophus rouxi* (n=9), *Hipposideros lankadiva* (n=2), *H.speoris* (n=36), *H. qaleritus* (n=3), *H.ater* (n=1), *Megaderma lyra* (n=3), *M.spasma* (n=1),

Pipistrellus tenuis mimus (n=3), *P.ceylonicus* (n=1) and *Taphozous melanopogon* (n=10) representing 5 microchiropteran families, were caught and examined. Eight species of arthropod ecto-parasites were collected and identified from these chiropteran hosts. *Basilia nana* (Family Nycteribiidae) (dipteran bat fly) was found exclusively on *R.leschenaulti seminudus* from 4 localities. Another bat fly of the genus *Penicillidia* of Nycteribiidae was harboured by both *R.leschenaulti seminudus* and *H.speoris*. Streblid flies (dipterans) were collected from *H.lankadiva, H.speoris, H.ater, T.melanopogon, M.lyra* and *R.rouxi*. A cimicid bug and a polyctenid bug were found on *P.tenuis mimus* and *M.spasma*, respectively. An ischnopsyllid flea (Siphonopptera) was detected on *P.ceylonicus* *R.leschenaulti seminudus* and *H.speoris* sheltered a larval stage of a tick and *R.rouxi* an adult mite. A species specific association was observed between host *R.leschenaulti seminudus* and the bat fly *B.nana*.

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