

D-50 Roosting patterns of some Sri Lankan bats

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The aim of this study was to investigate the roosting patterns of Sri Lankan bats which has hitherto not been documented. The study was initiated in September 1995 and is still in progress. So far 40 roosts in 10 different districts have been analysed. The results show that there are 5 major types of roosts: caves (natural caves, tunnels & mines); buildings; crevices; hollows in trees and tree tops. There appears to be a close relationship between the type of the roost and occupant bat species. *Rhinolophus rouxi*, *Hipposideros lankadiva*, *Miniopterus schreibersii* & *Rousettus leschenaulti* were strict cave dwellers. *Hipposideros speoris*, *H.galeritus*, *Megaderma lyra*, and *Taphozous melanopogon* roost both in caves and buildings. *Pipistrellus mimus* and *P.ceylonicus* roost in crevices. *Megaderma spasma* was found in crevices and in hollows of trees. *Pteropus giganteus* and *Cynopterus* sp. formed colonies on tree tops. Further, the population sizes of bats seem to be related to the roosting types. The largest colonies were formed by strict cave dwelling bats; (*R.rouxi* up to 50,000; *H.lankadiva* upto 2,000); *M. schreibersii* upto 2000; *R. leschenaulti* upto 20,000); medium size colonies (150 - 300) by bats inhabiting buildings and smallest colonies (3-35) by bats roosting crevices and hollows in trees. In bat species that roost on tree tops the common flying-fox formed large colonies (from few thousands up to 15,000 individuals) and *Cynopterus* species formed smaller colonies (upto 30).

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