

# Observations, Discussions and Updates

## Recent changes in African Bat Taxonomy (2014 – 2015). Part II

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### ***Scotonycteris occidentalis* Hayman, 1947**

Hayman's Tear-drop Fruit Bat (Eng.). *Scotonyctère de Hayman* (Fr.)

Originally described as a subspecies, Hassan *et al.* (2015) raised this to full species level, based molecular analysis. Morphologically, this species cannot be distinguished from the other two species of *Scotonycteris*. This species is endemic to West Africa, where it is known from Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Guinea.

### ***Scotonycteris bergmansi* Hassanin, Khouider, Gembu, Goodman, Kadjo, Nesi, Pourrut, Nakouné and Bonillo, 2015**

Bergmans's Fruit Bat (Eng.). *Scotonyctère de Bergmans* (Fr.).

Morphologically this species cannot be distinguished from the other two species of *Scotonycteris*, but Hassan *et al.* (2015)'s molecular analysis support the designation of *S. bergmansi* as a distinct species. The name *bergmansi* honors Dr. Wim Bergmans, a Dutch zoologist, for his outstanding contributions in the fields of taxonomy and biogeography of African fruit bats. The species occurs in Equatorial Africa, where it occurs in the rainforests of Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Republic of Congo, southern Central African Republic and eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In this species, the authors distinguished two subspecies:

### ***Scotonycteris bergmansi bergmansi* Hassanin, Khouider, Gembu, Goodman, Kadjo, Nesi, Pourrut, Nakouné and Bonillo, 2015**

Hassan *et al.* (2015), using mitochondrial sequences of the *Cyt b* gene showed that *S. b. bergmansi* specimens were highly divergent from those of *S. b. congoensis*, while morphologically *S. b. bergmansi* it is slightly smaller in size. Distributed in the rainforests of western Equatorial Africa in southern Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea.

### ***Scotonycteris bergmansi congoensis* Hassanin, Khouider, Gembu, Goodman, Kadjo, Nesi, Pourrut, Nakouné and Bonillo, 2015**

Hassan *et al.* (2015), using mitochondrial sequences of the *Cyt b* gene showed that *S. b. congoensis* is highly divergent from *S. b. bergmansi*, while it is slightly larger in size. Distributed in the rainforests of eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

### **Literature cited**

HASSANIN, A., KHOUIDER, S., GEMBU, G.-C., GOODMAN, S. M., KADJO, B., NESI, N., POURRUT, X., NAKOUNÉ, E. and BONILLO, C. 2015. The comparative phylogeography of fruit bats of the tribe Scotonycterini (Chiroptera, Pteropodidae) reveals cryptic species diversity related to African Pleistocene forest refugia. *Comptes Rendus Biologies* 338 (3): 197–211. doi [10.1016/j.crv.2014.12.003](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crv.2014.12.003).