

## First record of *Hipposideros coronatus* (Peters 1871) (Hipposideridae) on Siargao Island, Philippines

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**Subject identified by:** Ace Kevin S. Amarga, Krizler C. Tanalgo, Desamarie Antonette P. Fernandez.

**Location:** Barangay Esperanza, Del Carmen Watershed, Siargao Island, Philippines.

**Elevation:** 20 metres ASL.

**Habitat:** Agroforest area with a small cave nearby.

**Date and time:** 03 October 2016, 21:00 hrs.

**Identity of subject:**

Large Mindanao Roundleaf Bat, *Hipposideros coronatus* (Mammalia: Chiroptera: Hipposideridae).

**Description of record:** An adult female was captured in a mistnet established across the stream near the cave entrance (Fig. 1). It had a forearm length of 46.97 mm, head-and-body length of 58.63 mm, tail length of 36.31 mm, ear length of 14.53 mm, hindfoot length of 8.22 mm, and weight of 20 grams.



Fig. 1 and inset.

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## Remarks:

*Hipposideros coronatus* is a member of the “bicolor” species complex along with two other Philippine endemic hipposiderids: *H. obscurus* and *H. pygmaeus* (Patterson et al. 2020). The captured specimen is identified based on its tail length greater than 30 mm, forearm length about 47 mm, and other external features such as its medium brown dorsal pelage with tint of orange, pale creamy orange ventral pelage, narrow and simple noseleaf (Fig.1 inset), absence of vertical septa in posterior noseleaf, and absence of secondary leaflets on lateral region to anterior noseleaf (Ingle & Heaney 1992; Heaney et al. 2010).

Prior to its current valid name, *H. coronatus* was first described as *Phyllorhina coronata* from a single specimen collected by the German zoologist Carl Semper from Mainit, Surigao del Sur, Mindanao Island (Peters 1871). This poorly known endemic species inhabits caves and secondary lowland forests (Heaney et al. 2010; Sedlock et al. 2014; Phelps et al. 2016) in the Greater Mindanao Pleistocene Island Aggregate Complex and has been reported in Bohol, Samar, Surigao del Norte (type locality), and Surigao del Sur (Peters 1871; Heaney et al. 2010; Sedlock et al. 2014; Phelps et al. 2016). This species has also been reported outside its geographic range such as in Isabela Province (Cabauatan et al. 2014) and the Polillo islands (Bennett et al. 2001). However, it was not recorded in previous surveys on Siargao Island by Heaney & Rabor (1982) and Nuñez & Galorio (2014).

*H. coronatus* is recognized as a rare species due to very few published sightings and collected specimens since its description. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) designated this species under the Data Deficient category due to its rarity and very limited information on its biology. Furthermore, anthropogenic activities such as cave disturbance and forest fragmentation may impose a threat to its current population (Phelps et al. 2016).

**Permit:** This research was authorized by the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Region 13 (Wildlife Gratuitous Permit No. R13-2016-004) and conducted through the Monitoring and Detection of Ecosystems Changes for Enhancing Resilience and Adaptation in the Philippines (MODECERA) Research Program with the Surigao State College of Technology – Del Carmen Campus and the University of the Philippines Los Baños.

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