

Diversity, distribution and status of bats on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India

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SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE S1 List of bat species previously recorded, and recorded during our survey, on the Andaman (Fig. 1) and Nicobar Islands (Fig. 2), with notes on their present distribution in the Archipelagos.

Species	Last reported distribution (Andaman)	Last reported distribution (Nicobar)	Present distribution (survey record)	Last reported	Red List status (Leary et al., 2008)*	Survey assessment	Comments
<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>	North Andaman Island Group	Not recorded	Not recorded during the survey	Hill (1967)	LC	Not assessed	Not recorded in our survey. Has been previously included (Hill, 1967).
<i>Pteropus vampyrus</i>	No exact locality	Car Nicobar Is.	Not recorded during the survey	Anderson (1912), Mason (1908) in Bates (1997)	NT	Not assessed	Reports from secondary sources claimed that during the monsoon <i>Pteropus</i> sp. were observed in huge numbers in mangroves; on verification these were found to be <i>P. melanotus</i> .
<i>Pteropus hypomelanus</i>	Narcondum Is. (type locality of <i>satyrus</i>), Barren Is.	Absent on Nicobar Is.	Recorded from Barren Is. Narcondum Is. was not surveyed	Anderson (1912) in Bates (1997)	LC	Stable population	Found in large numbers in Barren Is., roosting on hill slopes on shortis stature trees (<1.5 m tall). No other bat species was recorded from the island
<i>Pteropus melanotus</i>	Present in both Archipelagos	Recorded from both Archipelagos	Large roosts were located in North Andaman Islands (Paget, Kwagtung, Landfall & Interview Islands) & South Andaman Islands (Boat Is., Rutland Is.) & Dugoung creek in Little Andaman Is.	(Hill, 1967; Saha, 1980)	VU	Stable population in all roosts located away from settlements in areas not frequented by humans	Roosts mostly in mangrove areas, sometimes on high stature trees (height >4.5 m) in inland forest & in Nypha palms. Hunted mostly in its foraging areas & occasionally in its roosts

Distribution in the Nicobar Islands include —Tillangchong & Great Nicobar Is.. Post tsunami, small colonies (n > 20) in Kamorta & Katchal Is.

<i>Pteropus faunulus</i>	Absent	Car Nicobar (type locality)	Tressa, Bompuka, Katchal, Nancowrie, Kamorta, Trinket (Central Nicobar Group of Islands)	Miller (1912)	VU	Not ascertained, solitary roosting species (Aul, 2007). No information previously recorded	Endemic to Central Nicobar Group: locally extinct from its type locality, hunted in foraging areas, & secondary sources confirm decrease in population over time
<i>Cynopterus sphinx</i>	Port Blair, Mandapahar	Car Nicobar, Great Nicobar	Throughout Andaman Archipelagos & in Southern Nicobar Group	(Hill, 1967; Anderson, 1912 in Bates, 1997)	LC	Stable population, generalist feeder found in all habitats sampled	Roost in fronds of coconut trees in a colony size of 4–5 individuals
<i>Cynopterus brachyotis</i>	No exact location	Not reported	Recorded throughout Andaman Archipelago & Central Nicobar Group	Sinha (1986) in Bates (1997)	LC	Stable population, generalist feeder found in all habitats sampled	Found to be using caves as roost on Interview Is. (Andaman Group) & coconut tree fronds in Andaman & Nicobar Archipelagos
<i>Cynopterus</i> sp.	Not recorded	Not recorded	Recorded for the first time in North, middle & South Andaman. Absent in Nicobar Archipelago	None	None	Population of this species could not be ascertained as no roosts were located. Presence absence was ascertained from mist net captures	Found feeding with other <i>Cynopterus</i> spp. & is morphometrically distinct from the other species by lacking a white mark on the ear, lighter pelage colour & smaller size
<i>Eonycteris spelaea</i>	Chiriyatapu	Not recorded	Present only in Andaman Archipelago (North, Middle, South Andaman	Bhattacharrya, (1975) in Bates	LC	Stable population in roosts surveyed	Roosts exclusively in caves either singly or with other species, pups were seen throughout the season with

			Islands & Little Andaman Is.)	(1997)			the mother. Defecates extensively to ward off intruders & the characteristic smell of its guano can be recognized from a distance
<i>Taphozous melanopogon</i>	Mandapahar	Not recorded	Recorded from Andaman & Nicobar Archipelagos	Hill (1967)	LC	Stable population, in the roost surveyed	Roosts in man-made structures & caves, cohabiting with other species; moves in a crab like fashion through crevices
<i>Taphozous (saccolaimus) saccolaimus</i>	Not recorded	Campbell Bay	Not recorded during the survey & previously only recorded once with no confirmation in any subsequent work	Hill (1967)	LC		Not recorded from Campbell bay or any other locality
<i>Megaderma spasma</i>	Wrightmyo	Not recorded	Present only in Andaman Archipelago	Hill (1967)	LC	Species roosts exclusively in tree hollows & in numbers of 5–6 in a colony	Species was found in small caves, tree hollows of <i>Ceiba</i> sp. & <i>Ficus</i> sp. & bunkers
<i>Rhinolophus affinis</i> (type locality of <i>andamenensis</i>)	Interview Is.	Not recorded	Not recorded during the survey	Sinha (1973) in Bates (1997)	None		
<i>Rhinolophus yunanensis</i>	Not recorded	Not recorded	Present in Andaman Archipelago & Little Andaman Is.. Absent in Nicobar Archipelago	None	LC	Stable populations with a colony size of 25–250 in a single cave, cohabiting with <i>R. cognatus</i> & other species in the caves	New record for Andaman Archipelago; roosts only in inland forest caves
<i>Rhinolophus cognatus</i>	Port Blair (type location)/	Not recorded	Present only in Andaman Archipelago & recorded in North, Middle &	Sinha (1973) in Bates (1997)	EN	Stable population	Endemic to Andaman Archipelago. <i>R famulus</i> is a not a separate species but rather the same as <i>R. cognatus</i> .

	North Central Is. (type location of <i>famulus</i> , synonym for <i>R. cognatus</i>)		South Andaman Island Group & Little Andaman Is..				
<i>Rhinolophus</i> sp	North Central Is. (type location of <i>famulus</i> , no exact location)	Not recorded	Present only on Andaman Islands, from Paget Point Is. (North Andaman Island Group)	Bates (1997)	Not assessed	Not assessed	We have recorded <i>R. cognatus</i> & <i>Rhinolophus</i> sp. separately as they can be distinguished using morphometric measurements. Research is needed to confidently segregate these two species.
<i>Hipposideros nicobarulae</i>	Not recorded	Campbell bay, Little Nicobar Is. (type location of <i>nicobarulae</i> , Nancowrie, Camorta, Car Nicobar	Present only in Southern Nicobar Group (Little Nicobar, Menchal, Great Nicobar, Pulo Milo Islands)	Hill (1967)	LC	Stable population	Roosts in caves, abandoned buildings, thatch roofs, road culverts & bridges; in caves occurs singly or with other species of bats
<i>Hipposideros fulvus</i>	Not recorded	No exact locality	Present only in Andaman Archipelago	Hill (1967)	LC	Stable population.	Roosts in caves, abandoned buildings, thatch roofs, road culverts & bridges; in caves occurs singly or with other species of bats
<i>Hipposideros pomona</i>	Not recorded	Kamorta	Present only in Central Nicobar Group	Saha (1980)	LC	Stable population	Roosts in caves, abandoned buildings, thatch roofs, road culverts & bridges; in caves occurs singly or with other species of bats
<i>Hipposideros larvatus</i>	Not recorded	Not recorded	Present only on Little Andaman Is.	None	LC	Only one roost was located in Little Andaman Is. Colony size	New record; sharing roost with <i>Pipistrellus javanicus</i> ; the cave, with a freshwater stream originating within,

						was >100 individuals	is in inland forest
<i>Hipposideros diadema nicobarensis</i>	Not recorded	Trinket Is.	Endemic to Central Nicobar Group	Hill (1967)	LC	Stable population with a colony size of 20–25 in bunkers & >150 in the caves	Common in Central Nicobar Group except Chowra Is.; primarily roosts in caves & man-made bunkers
<i>Myotis horsfieldii dryas</i>	Port Blair (type location of <i>dryas</i>)	Not recorded	Endemic to Andaman & Nicobar Archipelago	None	LC	Stable population	Previously reported only from Andaman Archipelago but also has a wide occurrence in Nicobar Archipelago
<i>Scotophilus kuhlii</i>	Not recorded	No exact location	Not recorded during the survey	Hill (1967)	LC		
<i>Tylonycteris pachypus</i>	Wimberligunj	Not recorded	Present only in Andaman Archipelago	Hill (1967)	LC		Netted over freshwater stream in Mayabundar (North Andaman Islands Group); no roosts were located; its presence & absence in any area was determined using information from local inhabitants. Caught only once in mist nets & we obtained 5 specimens collected by a local inhabitant while cutting bamboo.
<i>Pipistrellus javanicus</i>	Port Blair	Car Nicobar, Kamorta, (type location of <i>camortae</i>), Campbell bay	Present in Andaman & Nicobar Archipelagos	(Das, 1990; Soota & Chaturvedi, 1971 in Bates, 1998; Saha, 1980)	LC	Stable population	Species uses diverse roosts, e.g. thatch & caves; roosts characterized by a pungent odour & orange marks under the exit
<i>Pipistrellus coromandra</i>	Not recorded	Car Nicobar Is.	Present only in North & Central Nicobar Island Group	Sinha (1986)	LC	Stable population	Roosts in caves & tree hollows of coconut palm

<i>Pipistrellus</i> sp.	Not recorded	Not recorded	Present only on Tressa & Bompuka Is in Central Nicobar Island Group	None	NE		Probably a new species; found roosting in caves & tree hollows of coconut palm, with colony size of 25–30
<i>Hesperotenus tickelii</i>	Wrightmyo	Not recorded	Present only in Andaman Archipelago	Hill (1967)	NE	No roosts were located	Netted over freshwater pools & in gallery forests
<i>Miniopterus pusillus</i>	Not recorded	Katchal Is.	Present in Nicobar Archipelago. Not recorded from Andaman Archipelago	Hill (1967)	LC	Species was found in stable number (>2,000 individuals) in caves	Netted over streams & gallery forest; roosts in caves, with other species
<i>Murina cyclotis</i>	Not recorded	Not recorded	New record; found in all Islands in Nicobar Archipelago & on Interview, Mayabunder & Landfall Is. in Andaman Archipelago. The species is under taxonomic review & will probably be elevated to a new subspecies as <i>Murina guilleninicobarensis</i> .	None	LC	No day roosts were located	Prefers gallery forests & clear pathways for flight. It was captured on all the islands in the Nicobar Group & on two islands in Andaman Group.

*NE, Not evaluated; LC, Least concern; NT, Near Threatened; VU, Vulnerable; EN, Endangered

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE S2 The species of bat recorded at each site and island, by island group. The numbers indicate the numbered islands/sites on Fig. 1 (Andaman Islands) and Fig. 2 (Nicobar Islands).

Island/Site (by island group)	Species
North Andaman	
Point Is. (7)	<i>C. sphinx</i> , <i>C. brachyotis</i> , <i>Cynopterus</i> sp., <i>E. spelaea</i> , <i>H. pomona</i> , <i>M. horsfieldii dryas</i> , <i>P. javanicus</i> , <i>M. pusillus</i>
Paget Is.(6)	<i>C. sphinx</i> , <i>C. brachyotis</i> , <i>C. sp.</i> , <i>E. spelaea</i> , <i>R. yunanensis</i> , <i>M. h. dryas</i>
East Is.(2)	<i>C. sphinx</i> , <i>C. brachyotis</i> , <i>C. sp.</i> , <i>R.yunanensis</i> , <i>P.javanicus</i>
Graggy Is.(10)	<i>T. melanopogon</i>
Kwagtung Is.(11)	<i>P. melanotus</i>
Landfall Is.(1)	<i>P. melanotus</i> , <i>Cynopterus</i> sp., <i>C. sphinx</i> , <i>H. pomona</i> , <i>M. cyclotis</i>
Chippo Vill (4)	<i>Cynopterus</i> sp., <i>C. sphinx</i> , <i>E. spelaea</i> , <i>T. melanopogon</i> , <i>M. cyclotis</i>
North Reef Is. (13)	<i>P. melanotus</i> , <i>Cynopterus</i> sp., <i>C. sphinx</i> , <i>R. cognatus</i> , <i>H. pomona</i> , <i>M. h. dryas</i>
Smith Is.(9)	<i>P. melanotus</i> , <i>Cynopterus</i> sp., <i>C.sphinx</i> , <i>Rhinolophus cognatus</i> , <i>M. h. dryas</i> , <i>P.javanicus</i>
WestIs. (3)	<i>P. melanotus</i> , <i>Cynopterus</i> sp., <i>C. sphinx</i> , <i>P.javanicus</i>
Gandhi Nagar (8)	<i>C. sphinx</i> , <i>C. brachyotis</i> , <i>R. yunanensis</i> , <i>R. cognatus</i> , <i>M. spasma</i>
Challis Ek/ Cliff bay (15)	<i>C. sphinx</i> , <i>C. brachyotis</i> , <i>E. spelaea</i> , <i>M. spasma</i> , <i>T. melanopogon</i> , <i>H. tickelii</i> , <i>R. yunanensis</i> , <i>R. cognatus</i> ,
Saddle Peak (12)	<i>C. sphinx</i> , <i>Cynopterus</i> sp., <i>C. brachyotis</i> , <i>R. yunanensis</i> , <i>R. cognatus</i> , <i>M. spasma</i>
Middle Andaman	
Interview Is. (16)	<i>P. melanotus</i> , <i>C. sphinx</i> , <i>C. brachyotis</i> , <i>Cynopterus</i> sp., <i>E. spelaea</i> , <i>T. melanopogon</i> , <i>M. spasma</i> , <i>R. yunanensis</i> , <i>R. cognatus</i> , <i>H. pomona</i> , <i>M. h. dryas</i> , <i>H. tickelii</i> , <i>M. guilleninicobarensis</i>
Baratang Is. (27)	<i>P. melanotus</i> , <i>Cynopterus</i> sp., <i>C. sphinx</i> , <i>E. spelaea</i> , <i>T. melanopogon</i> , <i>R. yunanensis</i> , <i>R. cognatus</i> , <i>H. pomona</i> , <i>P.javanicus</i> , <i>M. pusillus</i>
Long Is. (23)	<i>P. melanotus</i> , <i>C. sphinx</i> , <i>Cynopterus</i> sp., <i>H. pomona</i> , <i>P.javanicus</i>
Strait Is. (26)	<i>C. sphinx</i> , <i>Cynopterus</i> sp., <i>R. yunanensis</i> ,

Mayabunder Vill/ Burma dera (18) Betapur (20)	<i>C. sphinx, Cynocephalus sp., M. spasma, T. melanopogon, T. pachypus, M. cylcotis, P. javanicus, H. tickelii</i> <i>C. sphinx, Cynocephalus sp.</i>
Pachvati (22)	<i>C. sphinx, C. brachyotis, Cynocephalus sp., E. spelaea, M. spasma</i>
Curtbert Bay (21)	<i>E. spelaea</i>
South Andaman South Sentinel Is.(38)	<i>C. sphinx, Cynocephalus sp.</i>
Outram Is. (25)	<i>P. melanotus, C. sphinx, Cynocephalus sp., M. spasma</i>
South Cinque (36)	<i>C. sphinx, Cynocephalus sp., H. pomona</i>
North Brother Is. (37)	<i>C. sphinx, Cynocephalus sp., H. pomona</i>
Neil Is.	<i>P. melanotus, C. sphinx, Cynocephalus sp.</i>
Henry Lawrence Is. (28)	<i>C. sphinx, Cynocephalus sp., M. spasma</i>
Havelock Is. (30)	<i>P. melanotus, C. sphinx, Cynocephalus sp., M. spasma, H. pomona, H. tickelii</i>
Inglis Is. (29)	<i>Cynocephalus sp., C. sphinx</i>
Boat Is. (33)	<i>P. melanotus, C. sphinx, Cynocephalus sp.</i>
Ross Is. (32)	<i>T. melanopogon</i>
Rutland Is. (35)	<i>P. melanotus, Cynocephalus sp., C. sphinx, T. melanopogon</i>
Little Andaman Is. (39)	<i>P. melanotus, C. sphinx, Cynocephalus sp., C. brachyotis, E. spelaea, T. melanopogon, M. spasma, R. yunanensis, R. cognatus, H. larvatus, H. pomona, M. h. dryas, P. javanicus</i>
North Nicobar CarNicobar (34-36)	<i>C. brachyotis, H. pomona, P. javanicus, P. coromandra, M. h. dryas</i>
Chowra (20)	<i>C. brachyotis, H. pomona</i>
Central Nicobar Tressa Is. (22,37)	<i>P. melanotus, P. faunulus, C. sphinx, H. pomona, H. diadema, nicobarensis, P. javanicus, P. coromandra, P. sp., M. cyclotis</i>

Bompuka Is. (21)	<i>P. melanotus, P. faunulus, C. sphinx, T. melanopogon, H. d. nicobarensis, H. pomona, Pipistrellus javanicus, P. coromandra, M. cyclotis, M. pusillus</i>
Tillangchong Is. (18,19)	<i>P. melanotus, C. sphinx, H. d. nicobarensis, H. nicobarulae, P. javanicus, P. coromandra, M. pusillus, M. cyclotis</i>
Katchal Is. (14-17)	<i>P. melanotus, P. faunulus, C. sphinx, H. d. nicobarensis, H. pomona, P. javanicus, P. coromandra, M. pusillus, M., cyclotis</i>
Nancowrie Is. (1-5)	<i>P. melanotus, P. faunulus, C. sphinx, T. melanopogon, H. pomona, P. javanicus</i>
Kamorta Is. (6-9)	<i>P. melanotus, P. faunulus, C. sphinx, H. pomona, H. d. nicobarensis, P. javanicus, P. coromandra, M. pusillus, M. cyclotis</i>
Trinket Is. (10-12)	<i>P. faunulus, C. sphinx, H. pomona, H. d. nicobarensis, P. javanicus, M. pusillus, M. cyclotis</i>
Southern Nicobar	
PuloMilo Is. (30)	<i>C. brachyotis, H. nicobarulae</i>
Menchal Is. (32)	<i>C. brachyotis, H. nicobarulae</i>
Little Nicobar Is (31,33)	<i>P. melanotus, C. brachyotis, T. melanopogon, H. nicobarulae, M. h. dryas</i>
Kondul Is. (29)	<i>C. brachyotis, T. melanopogon, H. nicobarulae</i>
Great Nicobar Is. (23-28)	<i>P. melanotus, C. brachyotis, T. melanopogon, H. nicobarulae, P. coromandra, M. h. drays, M. cyclotis</i>

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE S3 Percentage capture success of bat species in the habitat types surveyed, overall and by species, across the Andaman and Nicobar Archipelagos.

Habitats sampled	% capture success (Andaman)	% capture success (Nicobar)	Species (Andaman Islands)	Species (Nicobar Islands)
Gallery forest–fresh water stream	47.2	27.6	<i>Cynopterus</i> sp. (7.2%), <i>C. sphinx</i> (8.6%), <i>C. brachyotis</i> (9.6%), <i>E. spelaea</i> (3.6%), <i>H. tickelii</i> (0.6%), <i>H. fulvus</i> (1.6%), <i>M. spasma</i> (2.6%), <i>M. h. dryas</i> (7%), <i>R. cognatus</i> (0.7%), <i>R. yunanensis</i> (2.1%), <i>R. famulus</i> (0.7%), <i>T. melanopogon</i> (0.3%), <i>P. javanicus</i> (2.3%), <i>M. cyclotis</i> (0.6%), <i>T. pachypus</i> (0.3%)	<i>C. sphinx</i> (0.9%), <i>C. brachyotis</i> (9.8%), <i>H. d. nicobarensis</i> (6.7%), <i>H. pomona</i> (2.6%), <i>M. pusillus</i> (3%), <i>P. javanicus</i> (1.7%), <i>P. coromandra</i> (0.13%), <i>M. h. dryas</i> (1.6%), <i>M. cyclotis</i> (1.2%)
Gallery forest	24.2	14.1	<i>Cynopterus</i> sp. (9.2%), <i>C. sphinx</i> (4.3%), <i>C. brachyotis</i> (5.7%), <i>H. tickelii</i> (0.2%), <i>M. spasma</i> (1.1%), <i>M. h. dryas</i> (0.5%), <i>R. cognatus</i> (2.1%), <i>R. yunanensis</i> (0.6%), <i>P. javanicus</i> (0.2%), <i>M. cyclotis</i> (0.3%)	<i>C. sphinx</i> (9.3%), <i>C. brachyotis</i> (3.9%), <i>H. nicobarulae</i> (0.13%), <i>M. cyclotis</i> (0.5%)
Secondary Forest/stream	3.1	24.3	<i>Cynopterus</i> sp., (0.8%), <i>C. sphinx</i> (0.8%), <i>C. brachyotis</i> (1.2%), <i>E. spelaea</i> (0.6%)	<i>C. sphinx</i> (0.2%), <i>C. brachyotis</i> (20.8%), <i>H. diadema nicobarensis</i> (0.4%), <i>H. nicobarulae</i> (0.4%), <i>M. pusillus</i> (0.13%), <i>P. coromandra</i> (0.13%), <i>M. h. dryas</i> (0.5%), <i>M. cyclotis</i> (0.3%)
Plantation & Monocultures	6.1	22.7	<i>Cynopterus</i> sp. (1.1%), <i>C. sphinx</i> (2.1%), <i>C. brachyotis</i> (0.5%), <i>E. spelaea</i> (2.3%)	<i>C. sphinx</i> (1.2%), <i>C. brachyotis</i> (19.2%), <i>Hipposideros pomona</i> (0.13%), <i>P. coromandra</i> (1.3%), <i>M. cyclotis</i> (0.13%)
Mangrove–forest fringe	3.1	2.7	<i>Cynopterus</i> sp. (1.1%), <i>C. sphinx</i> (0.5%), <i>C. brachyotis</i> (0.8%), <i>M. spasma</i> (0.3%), <i>R. yunanensis</i> (0.2%), <i>P. javanicus</i> (0.2%)	<i>C. brachyotis</i> (3%)
Man made water sources	5	0.9	<i>Cynopterus</i> sp. (0.2%), <i>C. sphinx</i> (0.8%), <i>C. brachyotis</i> (2.3%), <i>H. tickelii</i> (0.7%), <i>R. cognatus</i> (0.7%), <i>R. yunanensis</i> (0.2%), <i>M. spasma</i> (0.2%)	<i>C. sphinx</i> (0.9%)
Littoral forest	6.1		<i>Cynopterus</i> sp. (1.1%), <i>C. sphinx</i> (2.9%), <i>C. brachyotis</i> (1.1%), <i>E. spelaea</i> (0.2%), <i>M. h. dryas</i> (0.5%), <i>R. yunanensis</i> (0.2%)	
Fresh water swamp	6		<i>Cynopterus</i> sp. (0.7%), <i>C. sphinx</i> (4.1%), <i>C. brachyotis</i> (0.2%), <i>M. spasma</i> (0.2%), <i>R. cognatus</i> (0.8%), <i>R. yunanensis</i> (0.2%)	

Forest-grassland
fringe

3.4

C. brachyotis (3.4%)

Mangrove fresh
water fringe

0.26

C. sphinx (0.2%)

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE S4 Types, and numbers, of roosts identified, and species present, in each roost recorded, in the Andaman (Fig. 1) and Nicobar Islands (Fig. 2) separately.

Roost type	Species present	Remarks
Caves (Andaman, 116; Nicobar, 54)	<i>T. melanopogon</i> , <i>C. brachyotis</i> , <i>M. spasma</i> , <i>R. yunanensis</i> , <i>R. cognatus</i> , <i>R. sp.</i> , <i>E. spelaea</i> , <i>H. fulvus</i> , <i>H. larvatus</i> , <i>P.</i> <i>javanicus</i> , <i>P. coromandra</i> , <i>M. h. dryas</i> , <i>M. pusillus</i>	Recorded in coastal & forest caves in the Andaman Group; species roosting solitary or with other species in the caves but occupying different areas within the roost
	<i>T. melanopogon</i> , <i>H. nicobarulae</i> , <i>H. pomona</i> , <i>H. d.</i> <i>nicobarensis</i> , <i>M. pusillus</i> , <i>P. javanicus</i> , <i>P. coromandra</i> . <i>M.</i> <i>h. drays</i>	Recorded in the Nicobar Group, where the caves are smaller than the caves in the Andaman Group & are mostly coastal
Bunkers (Andaman, 6; Nicobar, 9)	<i>T. melanopogon</i> , <i>H. d. nicobarensis</i> , <i>H. pomona</i> , <i>M. spasma</i>	In the Nicobar Group <i>T. melanopogon</i> did not utilize bunkers as day roosts but in the Andaman Group we recorded them from bunkers. <i>H. diadema</i> is endemic to the Central Nicobar Group & shares roosts with with <i>H. pomona</i> . <i>M. spasma</i> was restricted in distribution to the Andaman Group
Abandoned buildings (Andaman, 7; Nicobar, 5)	<i>T. melanopogon</i> , <i>H. fulvus</i> , <i>H. pomona</i>	In the Andaman Group <i>T. melanopogon</i> & <i>H. fulvus</i> were recorded only on two occasions utilizing abandoned buildings as day roosts. In the Nicobar Group only <i>H. pomona</i> was recorded from such roosts.
Foliage roosts	<i>P. melanotus</i> , <i>P. hypomelanus</i> , <i>P. faunulus</i> , <i>Cynopterus sp.</i> , <i>M. spasma</i> , <i>R. cognatus</i> , <i>Pipistrellus sp.</i> , <i>P. javanicus</i>	Most of the <i>P. melanotus</i> roosts are in mangrove forest, with numbers ranging from 500 to >2,000 in some places, such as Dugoung creek. <i>M. spasma</i> utilized hollows in <i>Ficus sp.</i> as roosts, with a colony size of 5–6 individuals. <i>R. cognatus</i> was found in hollows in <i>Manilkara sp.</i> , whereas <i>Pipistrellus sp.</i> was found in the hollow of a coconut tree. <i>P. javanicus</i> used thatch of wooden houses as roosts, with a characteristic yellow marking under the thatch under the roost.
Road culverts (Andaman, 60; Nicobars, 13)	<i>H. pomona</i>	<i>H. pomona</i> was found in 32 of the 132 culverts surveyed. Culverts well camouflaged with foliage were utilized whereas those with open, conspicuous entrances were vacant.

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE S5 Total number of caves previously recorded and surveyed, and number of caves with one species, >1 species or without bats, the species present and any relevant comments. The numbers indicate the numbered islands/sites on Fig. 1 (Andaman Islands) and Fig. 2 (Nicobar Islands).

Island/site (ID)	No. of caves previously recorded	Total no. of caves surveyed	No. with 1 species	No. with >1 species	Vacant	Species utilizing caves as roosts	Comments
North Andaman							
Cliff Bay Sanctuary (15)	41	19	9	8	2	<i>R. yunanensis, E. spelaea, T. melanopogon, H. fulvus</i>	All in forest, with some requiring skilled rope climbing. The site is a protected area with monitoring to prevent any nest collection.
Chippo Village (4)	1	1	1	0	0	<i>T. melanopogon</i>	In forest on a cliff
West Is. (3)	1	1	1	0	0	<i>T. melanopogon</i>	Coastal, the island is a rocky outcrop
White Cliff Is.	2	2	3	0	1	<i>T. melanopogon, R. cognatus</i>	2 coastal & 1 forest
Graggy Is. (10)	1	1	1	0	0	<i>T. melanopogon</i>	Coastal only
Point Is. (7)	2	2	1	1	0	<i>R. yunanensis, R. famulus, H. fulvus</i>	Coastal only, can be accessed on foot
Paget Is. (6)	12	12	11	0	1	<i>E. spelaea, H. fulvus, T. melanopogon</i>	Mostly coastal, with 1 inland in forest
Middle Andaman							
Interview Is. (16)	34	21	11	7	3	<i>R. yunanensis, R. cognatus, H. fulvus, M. spasma, C. brachyotis, E. spelaea, T. melanopogon</i>	Mostly forest, with freshwater in 2 caves
Baratang Is. (27)	191	28	14	4	10	<i>R. yunanensis, R. cognatus, T. melanopogon, E. spelaea, Myotis horsfieldii dryas, P. javanicus, H. fulvus</i>	All are in forest, with some having freshwater pools
Strait Is. (26)	2	2	1	0	1	<i>R. yunanensis</i>	Coastal, can be accessed by swimming
Curt Bert Bay (21)	2	2	1	1	0	<i>E. spelaea, H. fulvus, T. melanopogon</i>	Coastal, with sea water entering
Pachvati (22)	1	1	1	0	0	<i>T. melanopogon</i>	In forest on a cliff face
Burma Dera (18)	1	1	1	0	0	<i>T. melanopogon</i>	In forest, entrance is below ground surface
South Andaman							
Rutland Is. (35)	8	8	1	0	7	None	None were occupied by bats
Henry Lawrence Is. (28)	6	6	4	0	2	<i>M. spasma</i>	In forest, no swiftlets present
Little Andaman Is (39)							
Little Andaman Is. (16 km)	6	6	3	1	2	<i>M. h. dryas, H. larvatus, R. cognatus, R. yunanensis, T. melanopogon</i>	Along a freshwater stream, this is the first record of these caves
Little Andaman Is. (Jackson Creek)	2	2	0	2	0	<i>R. cognatus, H. fulvus, R. yunanensis, T. melanopogon</i>	Coastal, accessible on foot
North Nicobar							
Car Nicobar Is.	2	2	1	0	1	<i>H. pomona</i>	1 coastal, 1 is a natural bunker

(34–36)							
Central Nicobar							
Chowra Is. (20)	2	2	1	0	1	<i>H. pomona</i>	Inland, on a cliff face
Tressa Is. (22,37)	6	6	5	0	1	<i>H. pomona, M. pusillus, H. d. nicobarensis</i>	This is the first record of these caves
Bompuka Is. (21)	5	5	2	1	2	<i>M. pusillus, P. javanicus, T. melanopogon M. h. dryas</i>	In forest caves & coastal, all accessible on foot
Tillangchong Is. (18,19)	4	4	0	0	4	None	Coastal caves occupied only by <i>Collocalia fuciphaga</i> ; no sign of bat occupancy
Katchal Is. (14–17)	6	6	3	2	1	<i>H. pomona, P. javanicus, M. pusillus, H. d. nicobarensis</i>	All 3 occupied caves are in forest, coastal caves were vacant
Trinket Is. (10,12)	1	1	0	0	1	None	Previously reported to house <i>H. d. nicobarensis</i>
Kamorta Is. (6–9)	4	3	1	0	2	<i>H. pomona</i>	Coastal
Nancowrie Is. (1–5)	1	1	1	0	0	None	Coastal
South Nicobar							
Great Nicobar Is. (23–28)	10	7	2	1	4	<i>T. melanopogon, H. pomona</i>	All coastal, with one in forest (& vacant)
Pulo Milo Is. (30)	2	2	2	0	0	<i>H. pomona</i>	Coastal
Little Nicobar Is. (31,33)	10	10	3	0	7	<i>H. pomona</i>	Coastal
Kondul Is. (29)	3	5	3	0	2	<i>T. melanopogon</i>	Coastal

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL 1

Central Nicobar Group has two sympatric species of *Pteropus* namely, *P. melanotus* and *P. faunulus*. *P. faunulus* (FA: $118.5 \pm \text{SE } 11.5$ mm, wt: $172.8 \pm \text{SE } 60.4$ g, n = 44) is a small bat with a light buff colored fur and roosts singly while *P. melanotus* is black with a bright rufus shoulder patch and roosts in large conspicuous colonies. Morphometrically *P. melanotus* from Andaman is larger (FA: $165.5 \pm \text{SE } 8.03$ mm, n = 22) than the one in Nicobar (FA: $151.7 \pm \text{SE } 10.37$ mm, n = 15). *Eonycteris spelaea* (FA: $68.9 \pm \text{SE } 5.8$ mm, wt: $55.9 \pm \text{SE } 5$ g, n = 48) is the only cave dependent nectar feeding species recorded only in the Andaman Islands.

Cynopterus in the Andaman Islands comprised three species *Cynopterus* sp., *C. sphinx* and *C. brachyotis*. *Cynopterus* sp is the smallest of the three and is physically distinct in having a light buff coloured fur and no white margin on the ear from the other two. *C. brachyotis* (FA: 65.8 mm, wt: 30 g, n = 104) is a medium sized species with a dark grey fur and a distinct white margin on the ear. The largest of them *C. sphinx* is dark brown with a characteristic white margin outlining the ear margins. *Cynopterus* sp (FA: 55.8 mm, wt: 29.8 g, n = 116) might be a new sub species of *Cynopterus* as no description is available to classify this species. Lactating females with pups of *Cynopterus* spp. were also recorded during March. Based on morphometric details *C. sphinx* (FA: 73.23 mm, wt: 56.9 g, n = 131) from the Andaman and *C. sphinx* (FA: 65.5 mm, wt: 29.5 g, n = 109) from the Nicobar Group fall into two different sub species with the Nicobar species being closer to *C. sphinx brachyosoma*.

Genus *Rhinolophus* is represented by *R. yunanensis* (FA: $53.62 \pm \text{SE } .099$ mm, wt: $17.07 \pm \text{SE } 1.11$ g, n = 45), which is a new record from the Andaman Islands, previously *R. affinis* was reported but the present specimen was identified by P.J.J.B as *R. yunanensis*. *R. cognatus* (FA: $38.68 \pm \text{SE } 0.99$ mm, wt: $9.91 \pm \text{SE } 2$ g, n = 51) and *R. famulus* (FA: $36.5 \pm \text{SE } 1.2$ mm, wt: $5 \pm \text{SE } 2$ g, n = 6) have been reported from the Andaman, *R. cognatus* is endemic and has a fairly stable distribution across the Andaman Group of Islands. It was recorded only from roosting sites in caves and tree hollows. It shared the roosts mostly with *R. yunanensis* and in some roosts it was the only occupant. *R. famulus* was only recorded from Paget and White Cliff Islands (North Andaman Island Group) and is morphometrically similar to *R. famulus*, which has been previously reported.

Taphozous melanopogon (FA: $60.9 \pm \text{SE } 2.1$ mm, wt: $22.1 \pm \text{SE } 3.6$ g, n = 42) roosts in caves, abandoned buildings and were recorded from both the archipelagos. It is a new range record for the Nicobar Islands. No physical differences were observed between individuals from Andaman & Nicobar Islands. *Megaderma spasma* (FA: $57.06 \pm \text{SE } 1.36$ mm, wt: $21.46 \pm \text{SE } 2.31$ g, n = 40), *Tylonycteris pachypus* (FA: 27.6 mm, n = 2), *Hesperotenus tickelii* (FA: $50.15 \pm \text{SE } 1.3$ mm, wt: $19.53 \pm \text{SE } 2.3$ g, n = 14) and *Murina cyclotis* (FA: $33.9 \pm \text{SE } 1.5$ mm, wt: $8.26 \pm \text{SE } 1.3$ g, n = 16) were recorded only in mist nets. No day roosts were located for these three species. *M. cyclotis* is a new record for the Archipelagos. It was captured across fresh water streams in gallery forests. *M. cyclotis* has recently been ungraded to be a new sub species for the islands and is renamed *M. guilleninicobarensis* (Soisook et al., 2013).

Genus *Pipistrellus* included *P. javanicus* (FA: $32.05 \pm \text{SE } 0.5$ mm, wt: $7.2 \pm \text{SE } 1.3$ g, n = 84) recorded from both the Archipelagos and *P. coromandra* (FA: $30.59 \pm \text{SE } 0.9$ mm, wt: $5.8 \pm \text{SE } 0.4$ g, n = 12) restricted to the Nicobar Islands. A species of *Pipistrellus* similar in morphometrics to *P. coromandra* was identified from Tressa Island. It is probably a new species based on the measurement of its baculum by PJJ.B.

Genus *Hipposideros* was represented by *H. fulvus* (FA: $41.3 \pm \text{SE } 0.8$ mm, wt: $9.5 \pm \text{SE } 0.53$ g, n = 36) from the Andaman Archipelago and *H. larvatus* (FA: $60.26 \pm \text{SE } 1.0$ mm, wt: $12.26 \pm \text{SE } 1.0$ g, n = 3), a new record restricted to Little Andaman Island, *H. nicobarulae* (recently elevated to species status by Bounsavane et al., 2011) and *H. pomona* (FA: $40.5 \pm \text{SE } 0.53$ mm, wt: $7.3 \pm \text{SE } 0.5$ g, n = 242) were recorded from the Central & North Nicobar while *H. nicobarulae* (FA: $39.3 \pm \text{SE } 0.6$ mm, wt: $7.0 \pm \text{SE } 0.3$ g, n = 52) was restricted to the Southern Nicobar Group. Externally *H. nicobarulae*, *H. pomona* & *H. fulvus* are difficult to distinguish on appearances alone and based on morphometrics they were classified as separate species. Fur colour of *H. nicobarulae* was bright orange in Little Nicobar Island while the other two species had a dull brown fur. *H. diadema*

nicobarensis (FA: $65.32 \pm \text{SE } 1.24$ mm, wt: $25.2 \pm \text{SE } 4.7$ g, n = 96) is endemic to the Central Nicobar Group. It has distinct white spots on the fur on its shoulder and thigh area. Genus *Miniopterus* represented by *M. pusillus* (FA: $39.1 \pm \text{SE } 1.2$ mm, wt: $8.41 \pm \text{SE } 0.41$ g, n = 85) and genus *Myotis* represented by *M. horsfieldii dryas* (FA: $39.4 \pm \text{SE } 0.6$ mm, wt: $12.73 \pm \text{SE } 0.33$ g, n = 10) are restricted to the Nicobar Archipelagos and roost in caves, thatched roofs and the underside of bridges.