



LESSER FALSE VAMPIRE BAT

Range extension of Lesser False Vampire Bat (*Megaderma spasma*) in Southern Eastern Ghats



IUCN Red List:
Least Concern
(Csorba et. al.,
2008)

Lesser False Vampire Bat (*Megaderma spasma*) in Javadhu Hills, Eastern Ghats, Southern India

Mammalia
[Class of Mammals]

Chiroptera
[Order of Bats]

Megadermatidae
[Family of False Vampire Bats]

Megaderma spasma
[Lesser False Vampire Bat]

Species described by
Linnaeus in 1758

The genus *Megaderma* consists of two species in India, Greater False Vampire Bat *Megaderma lyra* (E. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1810) and Lesser False Vampire Bat *Megaderma spasma* (Linnaeus, 1758). Lesser False Vampire Bat (*Megaderma spasma*) distributed in South Asia and Southeast Asia (Debata et al., 2017).

Lesser False Vampire Bat (*Megaderma spasma*) is found in variety of habitats ranging from dry arid lands to hot humid forests to coastal areas. It roosts in small to large colonies ranging from a single individual to several hundred individuals in caves, old buildings, thatched huts, old disused wells, temples, forts, tunnels, mines, cow sheds (Csorba et al., 2008).



Here we present a new site location of Lesser False Vampire Bat (*Megaderma spasma*) in Javadhu Hills (also spelled Javadi Hills), Eastern Ghats, Southern India. On 29th April 2017, the roosting site was encountered from an abandoned house in Tamil Nadu Forest Department Check post house in Melpat, Javadhu hills, Tiruvannamalai. (12°26'14.65"N & 78°49'04.69"E; elevation: 990 m) and two individuals of *Megaderma spasma* were photographed. The Photographs clearly shows the typical short nose leaf with convex-sided and heart shaped base (Bates & Harrison, 1997).

Global Distribution:

Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

Previously, Lesser False Vampire Bat (*Megaderma spasma*) were recorded in the Western Ghats, Eastern Ghats, Andaman Islands and North-East India. In Eastern Ghats have only few records, especially from Odhisha (Debata et al., 2017). This observation is the first record of Lesser False Vampire Bat (*Megaderma spasma*) in Javadhu Hills, Eastern Ghats, Southern India and further studies are required in the Eastern Ghats.

References

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