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AUTHOR(S):
Wu, Yi; Motokawa, Masaharu; Harada, Masashi

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A New Species of Horseshoe Bat of the Genus *Rhinolophus* from China (Chiroptera: Rhinolophidae)

Yi Wu¹, Masaharu Motokawa²* and Masashi Harada³

¹College of Life Science, Guangzhou University, Guangzhou 510006, China
²Kyoto University Museum, Kyoto 606-8501, Japan
³Laboratory Animal Center, Graduate School of Medicine, Osaka City University, Osaka 545-8585, Japan

A new species of the *Rhinolophus philippinensis* group (Chiroptera: Rhinolophidae) is described from Guangdong, Guangxi, and Jiangxi Provinces in China. *Rhinolophus huananus* n. sp. is characterized by the horseshoe, as well as by external and cranial characteristics that separate it at the species level from the other members of the *philippinensis* group. One of the small species of the *philippinensis* group, *R. huananus* is intermediate in size between smaller *R. siamensis* and larger *R. macrotis*.

Key words: Chiroptera, Rhinolophidae, *Rhinolophus*, taxonomy, new species, China

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Rhinolophus*, horseshoe bats, is the only genus in the family Rhinolophidae and includes 71 species distributed in the Old World (Csorba et al., 2003). These 71 species are classified into 15 species groups on the basis of morphological characters. The *Rhinolophus philippinensis* species group includes six species from Southeast Asia and China (Csorba et al., 2003): *R. macrotis* Blyth, 1844; *R. marshalli* Thonglongya, 1973; *R. paradoxolophus* (Bourret, 1951); *R. rex* Allen, 1923; *R. montanus* Goodwin, 1979; and *R. philippinensis* Waterhouse, 1843. *Rhinolophus macrotis* is distributed in Southeast Asia, the Himalayan region, and southern China; *R. montanus* is a rare species distributed in Timor, Indonesia; *R. philippinensis* is distributed on islands from the Philippine Islands of Luzon to New Guinea and NE Queensland, Australia; and the other three species (*R. marshallii*, *R. paradoxolophus*, and *R. rex*) are distributed continental Southeast Asia and China (Corbet and Hill, 1992; Csorba et al., 2003; Wang, 2003; Wu et al., 2004). These six species of the *philippinensis* group are very different from one another in noseleaf morphology, as illustrated by Csorba et al. (2003); thus they are easily identified by external characters.

Simmons (2005) listed an additional species, *R. siamensis* Gyldenstolpe, 1917, originally described from Doi Par Sakang, northwestern Thailand, as a member of the *philippinensis* group. This species was formerly considered to be a subspecies of *R. macrotis* (e.g., Csorba et al., 2003). According to Simmons (2005), *R. siamensis* is distributed in Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam and is distinct from *R. macrotis* in having much smaller body size. Simmons (2005) also suggested that *R. siamensis* is sympatrically distributed with *R. macrotis* in several localities in Lao PDR and Vietnam, based on the literature (Francis et al., 1999; Hendrichsen et al., 2001; Csorba et al., 2003). Here we follow Simmons (2005) in recognizing *R. siamensis* as a valid species.

Among members of the *philippinensis* group, *R. macrotis* is more broadly distributed than other members, occurring in the Philippines, Sumatra, Malay Peninsula, Vietnam, Thailand, Lao PDR, Myanmar, China, Nepal, India, and Pakistan. It includes six subspecies (Bates and Harrison, 1997; Heaney et al., 1998; Francis et al., 1999; Csorba et al., 2003; Bates et al., 2004); the nominotypical subspecies, *R. macrotis macrotis*, in Nepal and India, originally described from Nepal (restricted to the Katmandu Valley by Scully [1887]) (also see Csorba and Bates, 1995); *R. macrotis hirsutus* Andersen, 1905, in the Philippines, originally described from Guimaras Island; *R. macrotis dohrni* Andersen, 1907, in Sumatra and Malaysia, originally described from Soekaranda, Deli, northwest Sumatra; *R. macrotis episcopus* Allen, 1923, in Sichuan Province and Chongqing City in China, originally described from Wanhuisen, east of Sichuan Province (now Chongqing City); *R. macrotis caldwelli* Allen, 1923, in southeastern China (Fujian and Guangxi Provinces) and Vietnam, originally described from Yuki, Fujian Province, China; and *R. macrotis topali* Csorba and Bates, 1995, in Pakistan, originally described from Kakul Phosphate Mine, Abbotabad.

Throughout its distributional range, *R. macrotis* is considered to be common, but it is poorly represented in zoological collections (Csorba and Bates, 1995; Bates and Harrison, 1997; Heaney et al., 1998; Csorba et al., 2003). We collected 25 specimens of the *philippinensis* group from Guangdong, Jiangxi, Guangxi, and Sichuan Provinces and Chongqing (Wanhuisen) City, China, in recent years. Among these specimens, we discovered *R. macrotis* and an undescribed species. In this paper, we describe the latter as a new species of the *philippinensis* group, and discuss...
several taxonomic problems among *R. macrotis* subspecies and *R. siamensis*.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Six specimens of both sexes of the new species were studied; these specimens are preserved in fluid, with the skulls extracted. All individuals were captured in three caves from 2 October 1999 to 16 January 2001. After capture, bats were transferred into cloth bags and weighed to the nearest 0.1 g, and a set of 10 external measurements was made on each specimen. The external measurements were taken to the nearest 0.1 mm with ordinary dial calipers. A set of 19 cranial measurements was taken in the laboratory to the nearest 0.01 mm with electronic calipers.

The following external measurements were taken: HB, head and body length; FA, length of forearm; TAIL, tail length; EAR, length of ear conch; SELLAH, height of sella from the cup at the base; SELLAW, width of sella at the middle; HSHOEW, greatest width of anterior noseleaf; MET3L, length of the metacarpal of the third finger; MET4L, length of the metacarpal of the fourth finger; MET5L, length of the metacarpal of the fifth finger.

**Etymology**

The new species is named after the institute to which the first author belongs, the Institute of Biodiversity in Huanan (=China south), Guangzhou University.

**Holotype**

Adult female, G2001060 from Shuitou valley, 10 km from Yunling Zhen, Yingde City, Guangdong Province, China; collected on 16 January 2001; preserved in alcohol, with the skull extracted; deposited in the Institute of Biodiversity in Huanan, Guangzhou University, Guangzhou, China. Measurements (in millimeters) are given in Table 1.

**Paratypes**

Two adult males and three adult females collected by Yi Wu and others: G2000203, female, and G2000204, female, collected on 16 October 2000 at Bats Cave, Yangshan County, Guangdong Province, China; G99133, male collected on 2 October 1999, G2000119, male collected on 4 August 2000, and G2000143, female collected on 5 August 2000, all from Longyan Cave, Pinglin Zhen, Longmen County, Guangdong Province, China. All specimens were preserved in alcohol, with all skulls extracted, except for that of G2000143. These paratypes are deposited in the Institute of Biodiversity in Huanan, Guangzhou University, Guangzhou, China.

**Other specimens examined**

*Rhinolophus huananus* n. sp.: GX04180, GX04181, GX04182, all adult females, collected on 8 August 2004, at Longquanyan Cave, Xingye County, Guangxi Province, China; J3131, J3149, adult males collected on 1 July 1980, at Xianren Cave, Xiaoping county, Ganzxian county, Jiangxi Province, China. Specimens are deposited in the Institute of Biodiversity in Huanan, Guangzhou University, Guangzhou, China.

**Species description**

**External characters**

Small (forearm 39.30–43.12 mm) rhinolophid bat. Noseleaves (Figs. 1 and 2) typical for group; anterior noseleaf covering the muzzle slightly, no distance between left and right leaves in the middle, secondary noseleaf present but under first, almost invisible. Connecting process rounded, originating below apex of sella, and higher than sella. Sella short (its length as long as width), not tongue shaped, covered with very short, pale hairs from base of sella downward.

**Etymology**

The new species is named after the institute to which the first author belongs, the Institute of Biodiversity in Huanan (=China south), Guangzhou University.
Table 1. External and cranial measurements (in mm) of holotype and paratypes of *Rhinolophus huananus* new species.

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Fig. 1. Face of *Rhinolophus huananus* n. sp.

Fig. 2. (A) Lateral and (B) frontal views of the horseshoe and sella of the holotype (G20001060) of *Rhinolophus huananus* n. sp. Abbreviations: cp, connecting process; se, sella; ic, internarial cup; ho, horseshoe.
First upper premolar (P2) small but in tooth row, with a distinct cusp. Lower first premolar (P2) also present in tooth row.

Baculum (Fig. 6A). Similar in general outline to that of *R. pusillus*; basal cone very large and strong compared to the other horseshoe bats; shaft roughly cylindrical, with a slight thickening in the middle when viewed from dorsal aspect. Total length of the baculum, 3.82 mm; greatest width, 1.02 mm; length of shaft, 2.22 mm (width 0.2 mm); length of basal cone, 1.30 mm (width 1.02 mm). Tip of shaft narrowly rounded off, with lateral widening; shaft length, 0.5 mm (width 0.4 mm). Basal cone 34.03% of baculum length; its width five times shaft width.

Comparisons

*Rhinolophus huananus* belongs to the *philippinensis*
group among 15 species group of the genus Rhinolophus, according to key provided by Csorba et al. (2003). *Rhinolophus huananus* agree with the following keys defined for the *philippinensis* group: specimens outside the Palaearctic Region (key number 10); specimens from the Indomalayan, Oceanian, and Australian Regions (24); small lateral basal lappets (26); connecting process rounded, not pointed (32); connecting process usually better developed, its tip pointed more or less forward; zygomata more robust, medio-laterally flattened (34); connecting process not forming a continuous arch (38); and sphen and long and wide; palatal bridge more than 1/3 length of maxillary tooth row (CM<sub>3</sub>) (39).

*Rhinolophus huananus* differs from all other species of the *philippinensis* group. It is a small species for this group. External and cranial measurements are intermediate between those of smaller *R. siamensis* and the remaining larger species, especially the length of the forearm: *R. huananus*, 39.30–43.12 mm (this study); *R. siamensis*, 36.1–37.1 mm (Table 2); *R. macrotris*, 39–48 mm; *R. marshallii*, 46–48 mm; *R. paradoxolophus*, 50.5–57 mm; *R. rex*, 56.5–63 mm; *R. montanus*, 43.5–46 mm; and *R. philippinensis*, 47–57 mm (Csorba et al., 2003). Forearm length overlaps with that of *R. macrotris*. The values of *R. macrotris* were taken from Csorba et al. (2003), and they may include *R. siamensis* as a subspecies; therefore, the value for *R. huananus* likely overlaps only with that of *R. siamensis*. The mean value of forearm length of each subspecies of *R. macrotris* is almost equal to or larger than the maximum value of *R. huananus*, as follows: *R. m. macrotris*, 42.79 mm; *R. m. dohrni*, 43.82 mm; *R. m. topali*, 45.36 mm (Csorba and Bates, 1995); *R. m. hirsutus*, 43.50 mm (Ingle and Heaney, 1992); *R. m. caldwelli*, 49.28 mm; and *R. m. epithiopous*, 47.32 mm (this study). The mean value of tail length of *R. huananus* (17.86 mm, Table 2) is greater than that of *R. m. siamensis* (13.0, 15.3 mm).

The sella of *R. huananus* differs from that of *R. rex*, *R. paradoxolophus*, *R. marshallii*, *R. philippinensis*, and *R. montanus* in not having an expanded internarial region, a character also shared with *R. macrotris* and *R. siamensis*. The sella of *R. huananus* differs from those of all subspecies of *R. macrotris* by its shorter size (3.47×2.73 mm), and in not being tongue shaped (Fig. 2). The sella is larger and tongue shaped in all subspecies of *R. macrotris* (e.g., Csorba et al., 2003).

*Rhinolophus huananus* is further distinguished from *R. macrotris* in skull characteristics, as follows: (1) in having one small, rounded pterygoid plate in the ventral view of the skull, instead of two divided horseshoe-shaped pterygoid plate of the skull of *R. macrotris*; and (2) in having a deep, narrow interpterygoid between hamular processes in ventral view, instead of the cone-shaped interpterygoid of the skull of *R. macrotris* (Fig. 4). The outline of the baculum of *R. huananus* is similar to that of *R. pusillus* (see Csorba et al., 2003), but is different from that of *R. macrotris*. It has a very large, strong basal cone relative to the bacula of the other horseshoe bats (e.g., Csorba et al., 2003). The shaft is roughly cylindrical, with a slight thickening in the middle in dorsal view, while the shaft of baculum of *R. macrotris* is longer and the basal cone not so thick in dorsal view (Fig. 6).

**DISCUSSION**

*Rhinolophus huananus* described in this paper is a new species of the *philippinensis* group of the genus Rhinolophus, and is more similar to *R. macrotris* and *R. siamensis* than to the other species. *Rhinolophus huananus* is smaller than all subspecies of *R. macrotris*, and is intermediate in size between *R. siamensis* and *R. macrotris*. The FA measurement reported for the holotype of *R. m. caldwelli* from Yuki, Fujian, is 43 mm (Allen, 1923), within the variation of *R. huananus* (Table 2, 39.30–43.12 mm), but the skull size corresponding to SL is 18 mm in that specimen, much larger than in *R. huananus* (16.17–16.86 mm).

The specific status of *R. siamensis* was confused and has been discussed by several authors. We also discuss its specific status in relation with the validity of *R. huananus*. *Rhinolophus siamensis* was originally described by Gyldenstolpe (1917) on the basis of two specimens collected from Doi Par Sakeng, northwestern Thailand, as a subspecies of *R. macrotris*: *R. m. siamensis*. The specimens of *siamensis* are small, with a forearm length of 36.1 mm and total length of skull to front of canine of 15.4 and 15.3 mm. From Vietnam, Osgood (1932) recorded both of the larger species *R. episipus caldwelli (=R. macrotris caldwelli)* and *R. macrotris siamensis*. Osgood's (1932)
siamensis was based on two specimens collected from Muong Moun; the forearm lengths of those specimens were 38 and 39 mm. Osgood (1932) noted that “Comparison with published measurements indicates they are almost exactly intermediate between macrotis and siamensis”. Francis et al. (1999) and Hendrichsen et al. (2001) recorded both R. macrotis and a smaller species resembling R. macrotis from Lao PDR and Vietnam, respectively. Francis et al. (1999) referred to the smaller species as “Rhinolophus cf. siamensis”. Hendrichsen et al. (2001), on the other hand, identified both a R. macrotis specimen and a smaller specimen as R. macrotis. Forearm lengths of the two specimens were 45.0 and 37.1 mm, very different from one another (Hendrichsen et al., 2001). Hendrichsen et al. (2001) also examined a paratype of siamensis, and he pointed out that siamensis and macrotis are different in overall size, but show essentially identical dentition and cranial characters, except for the basisphenoid pit and first upper premolar (P2). The basisphenoid pits were long and narrow in siamensis, but much wider and oval in macrotis; P2 was minute in siamensis, while considerable larger and more robust in macrotis. Although Hendrichsen et al. (2001) might have validated the taxonomic status of siamensis; these authors included siamensis within R. macrotis. Simmons (2005) first considered R. siamensis to be a valid species based on Francis et al. (1999) and Hendrichsen et al. (2001), without providing additional data. In this study, R. huananus showed a wider, more oval basisphenoid pit and a large, robust P2 (Figs. 4 and 5). These characters are similar to those of R. macrotis, but different from those of R. siamensis, and they are likely useful in distinguishing R. huananus from R. siamensis.

Rhinolophus huananus likely inhabits forests and has been recorded from Guangdong, Guangxi, and Jiangxi Provinces (this study). These areas correspond to part of the IndoChinese and southern Chinese divisions of the Indomalayan region, following the mammalian zoogeographical subdivisions of Corbet and Hill (1992). In China, both R. huananus and R. m. caldwelli were collected in a narrow range from Yingde City, Guangdong Province (in caves about 10 km apart). These collection data strongly suggest the sympatry of R. huananus and R. m. caldwelli in southern China, although we did not get samples of both species from a single cave. Possible sympatry between R. huananus and R. macrotis may offer additional evidence to support the valid specific status of both species. In that area, R. huananus is clearly distinct from R. macrotis in external and cranial characters as well as baculum morphology. Differences in baculum morphology may strongly suggest the occurrence of reproductive isolation between R. huananus and R. macrotis. Future studies to clarify the detailed distribution of R. huananus and R. macrotis in China and adjacent countries are necessary to explore the evolutionary history of the philippinensis group bats in the southern part of China.

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