

# FIJIAN BLOSSOM BAT

## What are they called?

### Scientific:

*Notopteris macdonaldi*

### Other English:

Pacific Blossum Bat, Long-tailed Blossom Bat or Long-tailed Fruit Bat

### French:

### Bislama:

### Vernacular (local name):

Misek misek (Tanna)

Parat Ta Le Manar (Gaua)

## A little bit about them:

In Vanuatu they are found on Ambae, Aneityum, Efate, Emae, Erromango, Gaua, Malakula, Malo, Mota Lava, Espirito Santo and Tanna.

They roost in caves in large colonies and come out to feed in the forests or in gardens. They eat flowers and fruits and can travel to different areas depending on what is flowering in which season.

## What do they look like?

These bats are very distinctive. They have elongated snouts and a very long free tail. Unlike other fruit bats, their tail is not attached to their wings, so it looks like a rat's tail. The wings meet in the middle lower back giving that area a naked and wrinkled look. They are light brown in colour. Their bodies are about 10 cm in length.



## Did you know?

- They are only found in Fiji and Vanuatu!
- Not very much is known about where they are and where they roost in Vanuatu.
- Up to 2000 bats can be found in one roosting site!



Source: [www.naturefiji.org](http://www.naturefiji.org)

Fijian Blossom Bats are classified as Vulnerable (VU) on the IUCN Red List.

### Why are they threatened?

- There are only a few known roosting sites.
- Disturbance at roosting sites by people including tourists or people collecting guano.
- Loss of forests due to clearing for agriculture, gardens and other development.
- Hunted for food. Because they roost in large numbers, many bats can be killed when there is a hunting expedition.

### What do they do for us?

- They pollinate many plants including food producing plants.
- They disperse seeds. This can be important for reestablishing vegetation after disturbance such as cyclones.
- As they fly they can cycle nutrients around the forest.
- The guano can be used as a fertilizer.
- Roosting sites could be tourist attractions.

### What can we do for them?

- Identify roosting sites and protect them.
- Find out more about them – observe where they live, what they feed on and when they have their babies.
- Take pictures and record when you see them.
- Report the sightings and observations to VESS or DEPC.
- If people want to eat bats they should hunt the pacific flying fox (also know as the black flying fox) as it is not threatened with extinction and not eat bats that are threatened including the Fiji blossom bat.

### Want to know more?

- ❖ Read more on the book ***Mammals of the South-West Pacific & the Moluccan Islands*** by Tim Flannery.
- ❖ Visit: [www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org)
- ❖ Nature Fiji: <https://naturefiji.org/fiji-blossom-bat-notopteris-macdonaldi/>

