



# PAINTED BAT

## Indian Painted Bat (*Kerivoula picta*) sighted near Vadodara, Central Gujarat



IUCN Red List:  
  
Global – Least Concern (Hutson et al. 2008)

*Kerivoula picta*

**Mammalia**  
[Class of Mammals]

**Chiroptera**  
[Order of big and small bats]

**Vespertilionidae**  
[Family of Evening bats]

***Kerivoula picta***  
[Painted Bat]

Species described by Pallas in 1767

The diversity of bats is under threat more because of lack of information and gross ignorance about the species (Devkar et al 2013). India has about 117 species of bats (Bates and Harrison 1997; ZSI report 2009) with some updates on their distribution, habitat, feeding habits and threats. Indian Painted Bat (*Kerivoula picta*; Family: Vespertilionidae; Order: Microchiroptera) is an enigmatic species that often goes unnoticed to the human eye due to their small size. Unlike other microbats, Indian Painted bat do not reside in large congregations and are often seen in a group of 2-3 individuals (Srinivasulu and Srinivasulu 2012). Till date, there are several unconfirmed field observations on presence of Indian Painted bat (K. Upadhyay 2014 pers.comm.) from various parts



of Gujarat. Besides, a lone report on sighting and photography of Indian Painted bat from Dhanturi village in Southern Gujarat (Patel et al. 2017) there are no recently documented evidences on presence of this species. This discovery provides site description and pictures of *K. picta* from central Gujarat, India.

A painted bat was accidentally sighted first by Rupesh Arya during volunteering and snake rescue activity at Ochhan village (21°99'03.87N & 73°03,10.44E), in Karjan taluka of Bharuch District. About 2 healthy adult specimens were sighted perching on Almond tree (*Prunus dulcis*) at 10:30hr. One of them flew and perched on adjacent Fig tree (*Ficus racemosa*) about 20m away. They were brightly coloured with a small sized (wing span – approx. 22-23 cm), bright orange hair growth on the body and conspicuously black wings (Srinivasulu et al. 2010). Painted bats have been reported to be solitary or living in small groups in anthropogenic habitats such as banana plantation, dried ferns leaves, tall grasses, sugarcane leaves or dried vine leaves in south Asian landscapes (Yapa and Ratnasooriya 1995; Phillips 1980; Khan 2001; Bhat and Sreenivasan 1990; Lekagul and McNeely 1977). Unusual roosting preference such as a nest of Baya weaver bird had also been reported (Sharma and Rakesh 2002). Presence of *K. picta* has been reported from Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal (Bates and Harrison 1997; Molur et al. 2002; Srinivasulu and Srinivasulu 2012). Also, there are reports on its distribution from protected areas of North East and Central India and Western Ghats (Bhat and Sreenivasan 1990; Molur et al. 2002). This report provides valuable information on a new location in central Gujarat along with photographic evidence.

**Global Distribution:**

South Asia, southern China and some major islands in insular Southeast Asia. (Molur et al. 2002; Srinivasulu and Srinivasulu 2012)

**Morphometric attributes (Chiroptera specialist group, 1996; Sripathi et al. 2006)**

Body length - 3-5.5 cm  
Tail length - 3-5.5 cm  
Wingspan - 18-30 cm  
Weight - 5 g  
Call range - 156.9 kHz - 41.5 kHz



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