



PAINTED BAT

Kerivoula picta in Gujarat



IUCN Red List:

Global — LC
(Hutson et al. 2008)

National
India — LC
(Molur et al. 2002)

Rescued *Kerivoula picta* from Dhanturi village, Tapi, Gujarat.
Photo: Nitesh Gamit

Mammalia
[Class of Mammals]

Chiroptera
[Order of Bats]

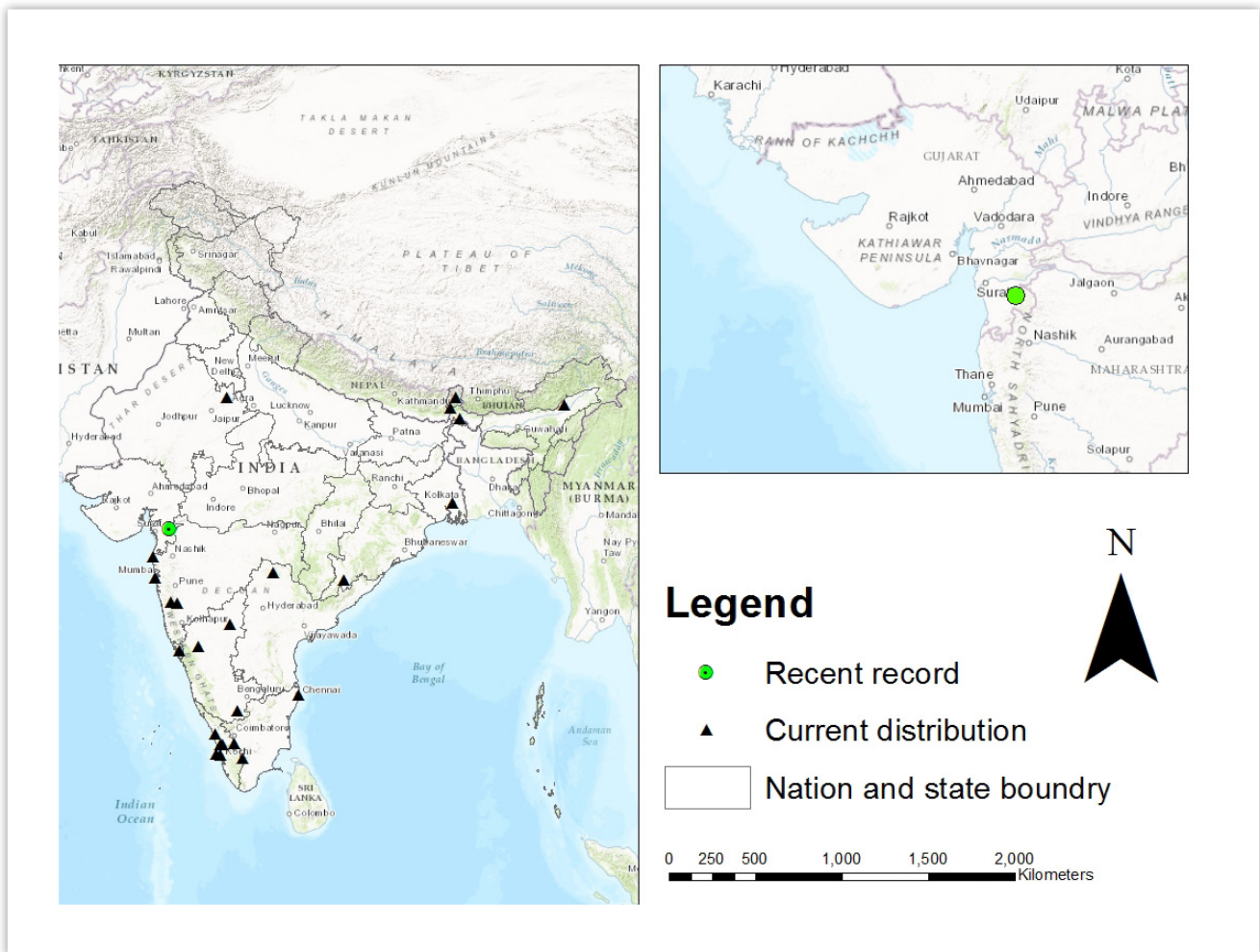
Vespertilionidae
[Family of Evening Bats]

Kerivoula picta
[Painted Bat]
[Painted Woolly Bat]

Species described by
Pallas in 1767

Distinguishing characters: Strikingly bright orange color on body, metacarpals and wing membrane adjacent to the body. Black wing membrane or patagium.

Habitat: In dry deciduous forests to agricultural landscape such as groves along paddy fields (Hutson et al. 2008; Funakoshi et al. 2015; Madhavan et al. 2014). Roosts singly or in pairs in foliage, mostly under dried banana leaves (Phillips 1980), in sugar cane fields (Moore 1962), dry grass and flower cluster (Lekagul & McNeely 1977), and weaver bird nest (Sharma 1986).



Recorded localities of *Kerivoula picta* in India and new locality record in Gujarat.

Distribution: It is a widespread species recorded from South Asian and Southeast Asian countries.

In India, the Painted Bat is reported from Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and West Bengal (Molur et al. 2002; Menon 2014).

First record of the Painted Bat from Gujarat, India

In this note we report its first distribution record from Gujarat, western India. On 21 March 2015 at around 13:00 hours at Dhanturi village, we encountered an orange colored bat stuck in a live fence made of thorny

Global Distribution (Hutson et al. 2008):

South Asia — Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka

Southeast Asia — Cambodia, China, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam

plants (20°57' N, 73°24' E; Elevation: 95m). We immediately identified the individual as Painted Bat because of its unmistakable color pattern and other morphological characters



as described in Bates & Harrison (1997), and Srinivasulu et al. (2010). We immediately rescued the bat and released it after taking a few photographs.

During another occasion on 01 August 2016 at around 12:00 hours, we found two individual Painted Bats roosting in the foliage of Mango tree *Mangifera indica* near the same locality. The roost was situated at a height of around 5 meters from the ground. We did not find the bats on subsequent days and they might have changed their roosting location.

Gujarat:

Bat fauna poorly documented.

23 species of bats.

Systematic surveys of bats urgently required.



A pair of Kerivoula picta roosting under the leaves of Mangifera indica in Gujarat. Photo: Kuldip Gamit.



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Acknowledgements:

Authors are thankful to Dhaval S. Patel and Anirudh Vasava of Vidyanagar Nature Club for their support and encouragement.

Jenis Patel¹, Kuldip Gamit², Nitesh Gamit² & Subrat Debata³

¹ Voluntary Nature Conservancy, Vallabh Vidyanagar, Anand, Gujarat 388120, India

² Dhanturi Nishal Faliyu, Dolvan, Tapi, Gujarat 394635, India

³ Department of Biodiversity & Conservation of Natural Resources, Central University of Orissa, Koraput, Odisha 764020, India

¹jenisbpatel@gmail.com (Corresponding author); ²kuldipgamit1104@gmail.com; ³niteshdhanturi@gmail.com; ⁴subrat.debata007@gmail.com