Title:	Species and acoustic diversity of bats in a palaeotropical wet evergreen forest in southern India
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Keywords:	Bats, Echolocation Species diversity Wet evergreen forest
Issue Date:	2014
Publisher:	Indian Academy of Sciences
Citation:	Current Science, 107(4), pp.631-641.
Abstract:	The Western Ghats of India is among the top 25 biodiversity hotspots in the world. About 43% of the reported 117 bat species in India are found in this region, but few quantitative studies of bat echolocation calls and diversity have been carried out here thus far. A quantitative study of bat diversity was therefore conducted using standard techniques, including mist-netting, acoustical and roost surveys in the wet evergreen forests of Kudremukh National Park in the Western Ghats of Karnataka. A total of 106 bats were caught over 108 sampling nights, representing 17 species, 3 belonging to Megachiroptera and 14 to Microchiroptera. Acoustical and roost surveys added three more species, two from Microchiroptera and one from Megachiroptera. Of these 20 species, 4 belonged to the family Pteropodidae, 10 to Vespertilionidae, 3 to Rhinolophidae, 2 to Megadermatidae and 1 to Hipposideridae. We recorded the echolocation calls of 13 of the 16 microchiropteran species, of which the calls of 4 species (Pipistrellus coromandra, Pipistrellus affinis, Pipistrellus ceylonicus and Harpiocephalus harpia) have been recorded for the first time. Discriminant function analyses of the calls of 11 species provided 91.7% correct classification of individuals to their respective species, indicating that the echolocation calls could be used successfully for non-invasive acoustic surveys and monitoring of bat species in the future
Description:	Only IISERM authors are available in the record.
URI:	https://www.currentscience.ac.in/Volumes/107/04/0631.pdf (https://www.currentscience.ac.in/Volumes/107/04/0631.pdf) http://hdl.handle.net/123456789/3154 (http://hdl.handle.net/123456789/3154)
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