

Artibeus jamaicensis

(Jamaican fruit bat)

Distribution: This species is widespread throughout Latin America, being found as far as the north of Argentina, along with all the Antillean Islands. There are seven subspecies, of which only *Artibeus jamaicensis parvipes* occurs in Cuba. They are found throughout Cuba. This is an abundant species in urban areas and disturbed habitats or secondary forests.

Physical description: This is one of the larger Cuban species with a weight of 33-54 g and forearm length of 55-61 mm. They have large eyes with a wide, short rostrum. The nose leaf appears like a lance and is well-developed. They have a reduced calcar, and no tail present. The fur varies from dark Brown to grey. A leucistic (rare mutation where the fur is white, but the pigment is normal) individual has been documented.



Foto: Melissa Donnelly.

Roost: This species is a generalist and can adapt to various types of roosts. They can be found in roofs, trees, foliage, and caves. In caves this species tends to occupy areas closest to the entrance and can occur in groups from a few individuals to several thousands.

Diet: They feed primarily on fruit, though they have been known to eat nectar. In Cuba the Jamaican fruit bat is a generalist and opportunist.



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Photo by Daniel Hargreaves