

Brachyphylla nana

(Cuban fruit eating bat)

Distribution: This species is endemic to the Greater Antilles. It can be found throughout Cuba, La Española, the Bahamas and the Caiman Islands. It is monotypic, meaning there are no subspecies. It can be caught in evergreen, scrub, pine forests, fragmented patches of vegetation, and suburban environments.

Physical description: It is one of the biggest bats of Cuba weighing in at 28-41 g. Their forearms length is 55-62 mm. The snout is short, and the lance shaped nose leaf is not present. On the lower lip a series of bead shaped structures can be seen. It has a small calcar, and no tail is present. The fur can vary from light brown to grey.



Photo: Daniel Hargreaves

Roost: This species roosts in caves. They can roost in “cold” caves or caves with high temperature and humidity readings. In the latter they form large congregations and sometimes can be found in bell cavities.

Diet: It feeds off the flowers of the mahoe (*Talipariti elatum*), royal palm (*Roystonea regia*), the ceiba (*Ceiba pentandra*), and other native plants, legumes and agaves. Out of the nectivorous bats in Cuba, this species consumes the most variety of fruit, including fruit from native trees like the ficus and the sapotaceas (*Chrysophyllum sp.*, *Manilkara sp.*).



Video Still by Lisa Sims.
Brachyphylla nana enjoying some sugar water.