

Mormopterus minutus

(Little goblin bat)

Distribution: This species is endemic to Cuba. It is found in certain central, and eastern provinces. Its distribution is associated with the endemic palm tree, *Copernicia gigas*, since that is their preferred roost. Due to habitat destruction, this species is considered vulnerable to extinction.

Physical description: This is one of the smallest molossids in the world weighing only 5-8 g. The forearm length is 28-33mm. The muzzle is elongated and skinny. The upper lip is much longer than the lower lip. The fur is short and thick with a greyish-brown colour.

Roost: Its preferred roost is the palm tree *Copernicia gigas*, the interior portion of the foliage tends to retain many dry tufts which is where the bats tend to form large colonies. There have been colonies found roosting in manmade structures and thus this could potentially increase the species distribution across the island.

Diet: They feed on insects, primarily on flying ants.

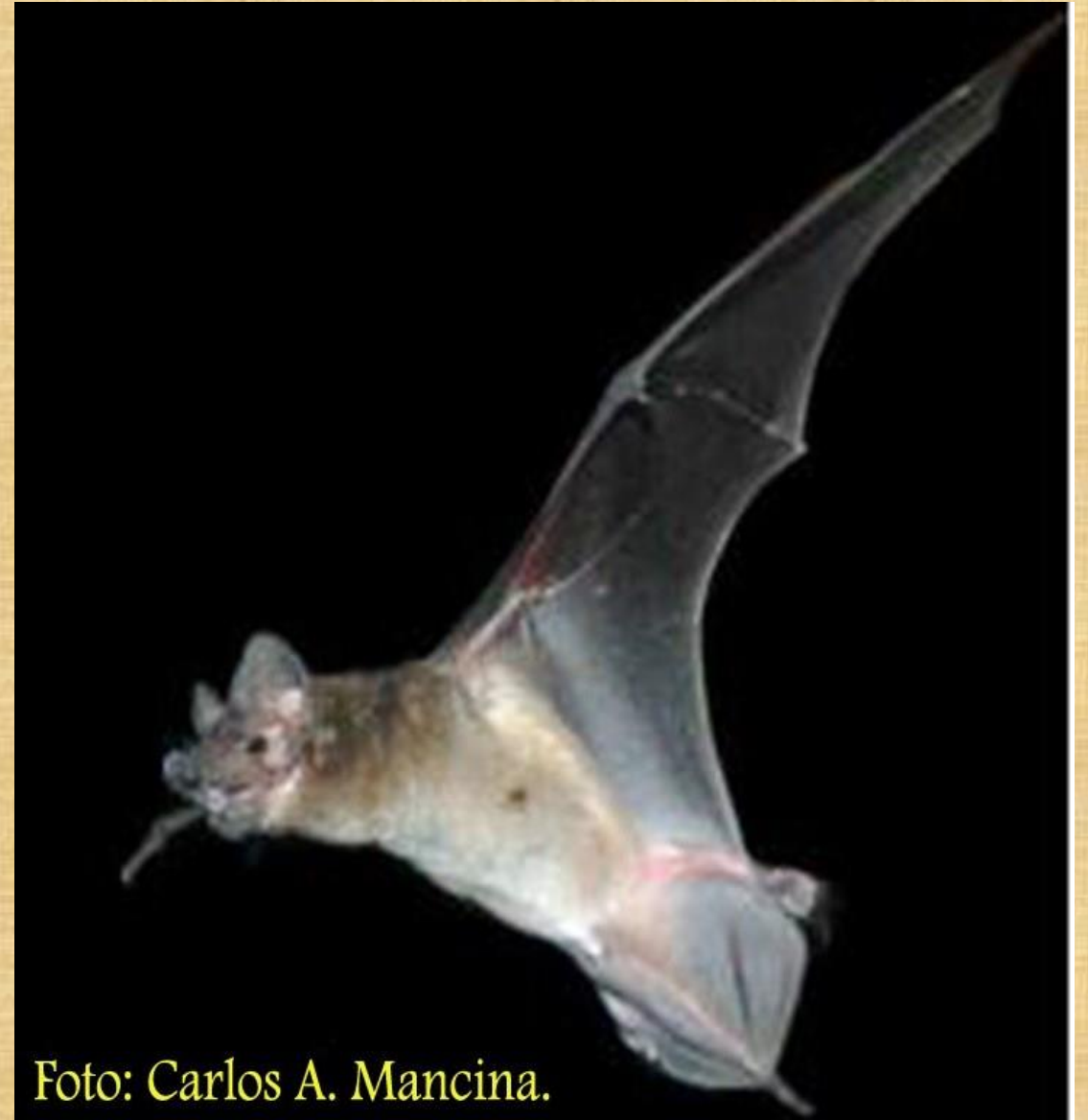


Foto: Carlos A. Mancina.