

# *Noctilio leporinus*

(Greater fishing bat)

**Distribution:** There are three subspecies of greater fishing bat. The one that inhabits Cuba is *Noctilio leporinus mastivus*, which can also be found on other Caribbean islands and in parts of Central and South America. It is found in almost all of Cuba's provinces, including Island Juventud and certain Keys on the Sabana-Camagüey archipelago.

**Physical description:** It is the largest Cuban bat weighing in at 54-87 g. The wingspan is 558-710 mm and the forearm length is 81-92. Their feet are quite large. This bat is known as the "bulldog bat" because of its dog-like facial features. The fur is really short and the colour varies from dark brown to orangey-red on the dorsal aspect. The ventral side is a light cream to intense orange in colour.

**Roost:** They roost within hollow trees including palm trees. These are generally located close to bodies of water on which they forage. Occasionally, they can be found in sea caves, or relatively new caverns.

**Diet:** They feed on marine fish such as sardines (Clupeidae) and anchovies (Engraulidae), or freshwater fish such as guppies (Poeciliidae). They also eat aquatic insects from Coleopterids to crustaceans (shrimp).

