

Phyllops falcatus

(Cuban fig eating bat)

Distribution: *Phyllops* is a monospecific genus with two subspecies, *P. falcatus falcatus*, found in Cuba and the Caiman Islands, and *P. falcatus haitiensis*, which is found on Española (Haiti and Dominican Republic). This species is found throughout Cuba, but to date has not been captured on Isla Juventud, though fossil records have been documented. It was initially thought to be a rare species, but with recent studies it has been found to be abundant. In a suburban area of Havana, up to fifteen individuals have been caught in a single night. It has been captured in evergreen and pine forests.

Physical description: This is a medium sized bat weighing 15-27 g, with a forearm length of 39-48 mm. Their eyes are large and light brown. The tragus, found at the base of the ears, is yellow in colouration. The nose leaf is lance-shaped and well-defined. The fur is cream coloured, being lighter on the ventral side than on the dorsal side. There are two white patches found on the shoulders.



Photo by Melissa Donnelly

Roost: They roost between tree foliage, next to leaves. They form small groups, but it is not uncommon for them to be solitary or to roost in pairs.

Diet: Not much is known about the diet except that it consumes fruits from secondary growth forests like cecropia (*Cecropia schreberiana*), calabur (*Muntingia calabura*) and *Piper sp.* It has been captured carrying malabar plum fruit (*Syzygium jambos*) and a plant from the genus *Ficus*.

