

Threatened Species of the Northern Territory

NORTHERN LEAF-NOSED BAT

Hipposideros stenotis

Conservation status

Australia: Not listed

Northern Territory: Vulnerable



Photo: S. Parish

Description

The Northern Leaf-nosed bat is a relatively small microbat with a complex nose leaf that covers most of the face. Distinguished from other Northern Territory (NT) leaf-nosed bats by having acutely tapered ear tips.

Distribution

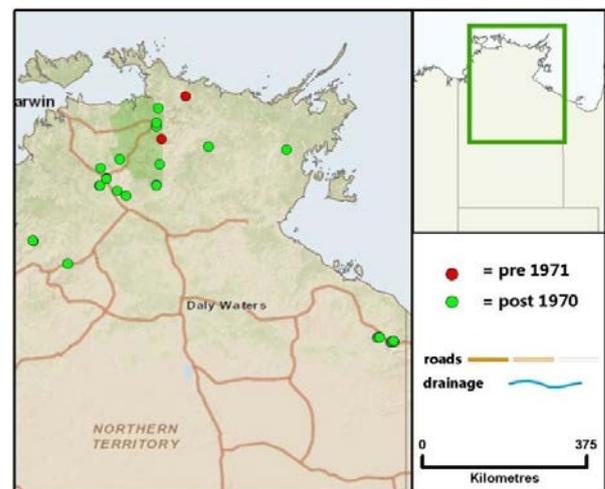
The Northern Leaf-nosed bat has been recorded in a few locations associated with high sandstone escarpment areas in the Top End of the NT. It also occurs in the eastern and western Kimberly, and in Queensland around the southern Gulf of Carpentaria.

Conservation reserves where reported:

Kakadu National Park, Gregory National Park, Nitmiluk National Park and Umbrawarra Nature Reserve.

Ecology

Little is known of the ecology of this species. It is associated with rocky outcrops and roosts in shallow caves, boulder piles and disused mines. It forages in a variety of habitats from monsoon vine thickets and woodlands to open grasslands.



Known locations of the Northern Leaf-nosed bat

Conservation assessment

The status of the Northern Leaf-nosed bat is problematic. There are very few records and it is a difficult species to trap and detect at roost sites. It has a very high echolocation frequency and is therefore less likely to be detected using electronic detectors compared to other microbat species, however it has been found to be readily detected via electronic detectors in areas where it occurs.

There are 31 records of the Northern Leaf-nosed bat in the NT. Since 2000 the species has only been recorded six times (two of these records are questionable). Between 2000 and 2004, microbats surveys of

escarpment areas detected its presence at one location. The species is known to have disappeared from at least two sites where it was known to previously occur; Red Bank mine and Pine Creek (B. Thomson and S. Churchill *pers. comm.*).

This species qualifies as **Vulnerable** in the NT (under criterion A2ab), based on:

- Population reduction of >30 per cent over the last three generations (c. 30 years); based on both direct observation and an index of abundance appropriate to the taxon.

Threatening processes

There are no obvious threatening processes. The Northern Leaf-nosed bat has been observed foraging close to the ground and it is speculated that the species may be subject to pressures from changed fire regimes and/or grazing by introduced herbivores (B. Thompson *pers. comm.*)

Conservation objectives and management

There is no existing management program for the Northern Leaf-nosed bat in the NT.

Research priorities are to:

- i. undertake further survey work, particularly targeting areas where the Northern Leaf-nosed bat has previously been detected, aimed at establishing the distribution and abundance of the species; and
- ii. conduct baseline ecological research to determine the ecological requirements and threats for the species.

Compiled by

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[updated December 2012]

References

Milne, D.J. and Pavey, C.R. (in press). The Status and Conservation of Bats in the Northern Territory. in *The Biology and Conservation of Australian Bats* (Eds. Law, B., Eby, P., Lunney, D. and Lumsden, L.). Royal Zoological Society of NSW, Mosman, NSW.