

A Range Extension and First Voucher Echolocation Call for the New Guinea Big-eared Bat, *Pharotis imogene* (Chiroptera: Vespertilionidae)

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ABSTRACT. The New Guinea Big-eared Bat *Pharotis imogene* is one of the region's least known mammals, with prior confirmed records from only two localities, both in Central Province, Papua New Guinea. We report the recent capture of a *Pharotis imogene* from Kuriva Forestry Station, approximately 50 km north of Port Moresby, extending the species' known range more than 130 km northwest of its previous limit. We describe and illustrate the new specimen and its habitat and provide the first description of this species' echolocation call.

Introduction

The monotypic genus *Pharotis* (Chiroptera: Vespertilionidae) is known only from Central Province in southeast mainland Papua New Guinea (PNG) (Armstrong *et al.*, 2021). Its sole member, the New Guinea Big-eared Bat *Pharotis imogene* Thomas, 1914, is among the most poorly known of all New Guinean mammals. It is known from just two localities southeast of Port Moresby.

The discovery, description, and recent rediscovery of *Pharotis* are described in Hughes *et al.* (2014). Briefly, in

1890, Dr Lamberto Loria collected 45 vespertilionids from near the coastal village of Kamali in Rigo District (Fig. 1) that were initially lodged in the Museo di Storia Naturale in Genoa and assigned by Thomas (1897) to *Nyctophilus timoriensis* (Geoffroy, 1806). The collection was later distributed among several institutions, and only six of these specimens have been relocated (Flannery, 1995; Armstrong *et al.*, 2021). The original description of *Pharotis* (Thomas, 1914) refers only to the type, one of three specimens from the Kamali collection reportedly held at the Natural History

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