**Kerivoula phalaena**  **Spurrell’s Woolly Bat**  
Fr. Chauve-souris peinte phalène; Ger. Spurrells Wollfledermaus

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**Taxonomy**  

**Description**  
Very small microbat without noseleaf and with tail more or less fully enclosed in interfemoral membrane; six upper and six lower cheekteeth on each side; ears funnel-shaped; pelage frizzled; upper canine not grooved; FA: 25–28 mm; dorsal pelage various shades of brown, without frosting; posterior margin of interfemoral membrane without comb-like fringe of bristle-like hairs; inner and outer upper incisors unicusp or weakly bicuspid; outer lower incisor unicusp. Females with on average slightly longer forearms; sexes otherwise similar. Pelage dense, woolly, frizzled (many hairs with hooked tips); mid-dorsal hairs 6–7 mm. Dorsal pelage pale reddish-brown, fawn-brown or greyish-brown; not frosted; hairs usually darker at base. Ventral pelage paler, less reddish. Head high-domed; muzzle long, pointed, hidden by facial pelage. Eyes minute. Ears medium brown, widely separated, comparatively and relatively short for a vespertilionid (47 [39–56]% of FA). Tragus long (50 [43–57]% of E), narrow, tapering to fairly sharp point. Wings blackish brown; pelage not extending to dorsal surface of forearm and tibia. Interfemoral membrane blackish-brown; posterior margin with thinly scattered hairs but no comb-like fringe of hooked, bristle-like hairs; very few hairs on dorsal surface. Tail 115 (92–138)% of HB.

Skull delicate; braincase high-domed, rostrum narrow; frontal region sharply angular to plane of rostrum. Upper incisors comparatively long (cf. *K. cuprosa*). Inner upper incisor unicusp or with small secondary cusp at posterior base. Outer upper incisor shorter (ca. two-
thirds height of inner incisor), with only a minute secondary cusp at the internal base. Inner and middle lower incisors tricuspid; outer lower incisor unicuspid. Lower premolars subequal in height and breadth.

**Geographic Variation**  No information.

**Similar Species**  Three other African *Kerivoula* do not have a comb-like fringe of hooked, bristle-like hairs on posterior margin of interfemoral membrane (Table 31, p. 724):

*Kerivoula smithii*. Pelage conspicuously frosted. Inner upper incisor bicuspid, secondary cusp reaching ca. half to two-thirds height of main cusp. Larger (FA: 32–36 mm; GLS: 13.1–14.1 mm) and heavier (5.9–7.0 g).


*K. africana*. Dorsal hairs dark brown to black with greyish-brown tip. Outer upper incisor almost reaching height of inner incisor; unicuspid or bicuspid (with small or large basal cusp).

**Distribution**  Endemic to Africa. Recorded mainly from the Rainforest BZ (Western, West Central and East Central Regions) with outlying records from the Afromontane–Afroalpine BZ in NE DR Congo and W Uganda, and from the Guinea Savanna BZ in Côte d’Ivoire. Distribution disjunct. Known from 16 localities in Guinea (Fahr & Ebigbo 2003), Liberia, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Cameroon, DR Congo and Uganda (Thomas 1912c, Aellen 1952, Kuhn 1965, J. Fahr unpubl.).

**Habitat**  Mostly reported from lowland rainforest and coastal forest (11 localities). Also found in the (sub-) montane forests on the mountains flanking the Albertine Rift Valley at 700–2400 m in W Uganda and NE DR Congo, and in gallery forest within the Guinea Savanna BZ at Comoé N. P., Côte d’Ivoire. Recorded from a ravine forest within montane grassland at 1350 m on the Simandou Range, Guinea (Fahr & Ebigbo 2003).

**Abundance**  No conclusive information but apparently quite rare.

**Remarks**  A ♀ from Kayonza (Uganda, ROM) was taken from the nest of a warbler (*Apalis* sp.) (E. Thorn pers. comm.). In Côte d’Ivoire, caught with harp-traps at a height of 1.5 m (n = 4) (J. Fahr unpubl.). Probably forages by gleaning. Echolocation calls are steep, broad-band FM calls (details not known).

**Conservation**  IUCN Category: Least Concern.

Known from 16 localities within an apparently disjunct distribution. Could become threatened under criterion A4c (inferred) because of its restricted geographic range and deforestation within its range. Population trend not known.

**Measurements**

*Kerivoula phalaena*

FA (♀♂): 27.0 (25–28) mm, n = 9
FA (♀): 28.5 (27–30) mm, n = 10
WS (♂): 200 (185–208) mm, n = 5
TL: 72.3 (63–79) mm, n = 17
T: 38.2 (32–42) mm, n = 17
HF: 12.5 (11–13) mm, n = 15
E: 13.0 (11–14) mm, n = 16
Tr: 6.6 (6.0–6.7) mm, n = 9
WT: 3.5 (2.2–5.0) g, n = 7
GLS: 12.0 (11.6–12.5) mm, n = 15
GWS: 7.2 (6.6–7.4) mm, n = 8
C–M 3: 4.8 (4.5–5.1) mm, n = 17

Liberia, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana (incl. holotype), Cameroon, DR Congo, Uganda (BMNH, FC, LACM, MHNS, RMCA, SMF, USNM).

**Key Reference**  Thomas 1912c.