



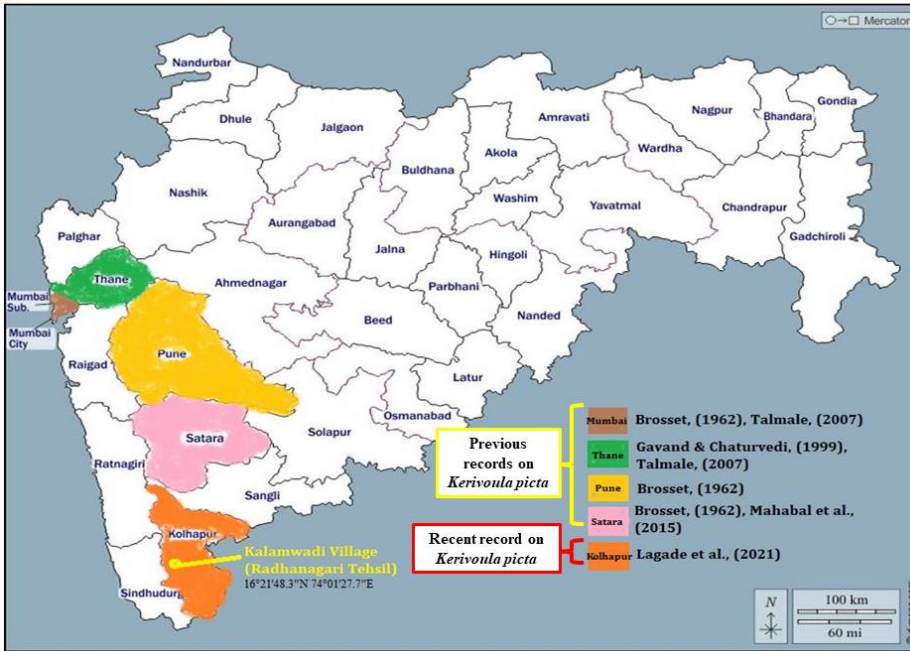
A new record on occurrences of Painted Bat from Kolhapur District, Maharashtra, India.

Western Ghats is rich in biological diversity and indeed of high endemism hence it is considered as one of the hot spots of the World's 34 biodiversity hot spots. Due to its ecological diversity and wide range of forest habitats, it accommodates a high degree of fauna with more endemism (Das et al. 2006). Generally, bats are nocturnal organism that lives in colonies, usually found in dark regions and mainly feed on insects, and fruits (Bates & Harrison 1997).

There was a call from two students Mr. Suresh Patil and Mr. Rushikesh Sutar on 14 September 2021 around 2135 h regarding an unknown bat noted in a residential area. They said that, such a bat we had never seen so far and it was found the first time in this locality (Kalamwadi village). On next day, they brought the bat to the laboratory, we have taken some photographs and morphometric measurements of a body length of 4.5 cm, a wing span of about 16.5cm, total body weight 5.6 g of that bat. The rescued bat was a female individual. After morphometric analysis and photography, we released that bat into their natural habitats.



Painted Bat *Kerivoula picta*.



Map showing the previous records of *Kerivoula picta* from some district of Maharashtra and recent record of *Kerivoula picta* from Kolhapur district.

Subsequently, reviewing the literature and observing the colour patterns with some morphological characters, it comes to know that, the colorful bat was Painted Bat *Kerivoula picta* (Pallas, 1767) belongs to the family Vespertilionidae and order Microchiroptera. Kinds of literature and recent documentation depict that, the Painted Bat was first time recorded from this locality and their presence and distribution were also new to the Kolhapur district. Till date, the occurrence and records of Painted Bat were recorded from some regions of Maharashtra like Mumbai, Thane, Pune and Satara (Mahabal et al. 2015). Whereas in this note, we have reported first time its occurrence and distribution from Radhangari Tehsil, Kolhapur District.

The Painted Bat body is bright orange in colour with black colour wing or patagium. Roosting habitats are agricultural landscapes like paddy and sugarcane fields furthermore it may also

siting under dried leaves of bananas, tall grass and dry grass etc. According to IUCN Red List it comes under the 'Least Concern' category.

Among bat species, the Indian Painted Bat species belong to the family Vespertilionidae and the order Microchiroptera is merely studied by authors moreover, this species is not found in large groups instead of that they occur in 2–3 individuals.

The Indian Painted Bat is widely distributed in some Indian Subcontinent regions like India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Indonesia (Moratelli & Burgin 2019; Edirisinghe et al. 2022). In India, Painted Bat is particularly found in western and southern parts such Gujarat (Devkar et al. 2013), Maharashtra, Goa, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu (Bates & Harrison 1997; Alfred et al. 2006; Korad 2014; Talmale & Saikia 2018). Mahabal et al. (2015) has reported the occurrence and distribution of Painted Bat in 10 different regions of Maharashtra State such as Mumbai and its sub-urban areas, Thane, Pune, and Satara.

The Kalamwadi Village (16.3634N, 74.0077E) is located in Sahyadri hills and surrounded by the agricultural landscape, particularly paddy and sugar cane fields. In addition, plenty of banana plantations are found in around the house of Mr. Suresh Patil which may attract



the Painted Bat. This note provides new valuable documentation on Painted Bat from the Kolhapur district which concludes that the Painted Bat is widely distributed in the northern Western Ghats of Sahyadri ranges.

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