**Kerivoula cuprosa**  **COPPER WOOLLY BAT**  
Fr. Chauve-souris peinte cuivrée; Ger. Kupferfarbene Wollledermaus


**Taxonomy**  Synonyms: none. *Kerivoula cuprosa* has frequently been confused with *K. smithii* and was incorrectly listed as a synonym of *K. smithii* by Anciaux de Faveaux (1984). Chromosome number: not known.

**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: 31.7 (30–33) mm; dorsal pelage dark or chocolate brown with frosting; posterior margin of interfemoral membrane without comb-like fringe of bristle-like hairs; inner upper incisor bicuspid; outer lower incisor tricuspid. Sexual dimorphism: no information. Pelage dense, woolly, frizzled (many hairs with hooked tips); extending onto dorsal surface of forearm and tibia; mid-dorsal hairs ca. 7–8 mm. Dorsal pelage dark or chocolate brown, with golden sheen or singed appearance depending on angle of view; hairs dark brown with terminal third bright rusty-brown or chocolate brown; many hairs with pale-brown hooked tip. Ventral pelage duller brown; hairs dark greyish-brown with terminal third paler; tip of some hairs whitish or cream. Head high-domed; muzzle long, pointed, hidden by facial pelage. Eyes minute. Ears brown, widely separated, comparatively and relatively short for a vespertilionid (42 [39–47]% of FA); anterior border strongly convex; posterior border with angular concavity just below the tip. Tragus moderately long (51 [46–56]% of E), narrow, tapering to sharp point, curved outwards, its base with a small lobule above which there is an emargination. Wings and interfemoral membrane dark brown. Posterior margin of interfemoral membrane with thinly scattered curled hairs but no comb-like fringe of hooked, bristle-like hairs; proximal third of dorsal surface sparsely covered with hairs. Tail 114 (100–133)% of HB.
Skull delicate; braincase high-domed; rostrum narrow; frontal region sharply angular to plane of rostrum as in all Kerivoula. Upper incisors comparatively short (cf. K. phalaena, K. smithii). Inner upper incisor bicuspid, the secondary cusp ca. half the length of the main cusp. Outer upper incisor ca. half to two-thirds the height of inner incisor, either unicuspid or weakly bicuspid, secondary cusp orientated postero-internally. Outer lower incisor tricuspid; outer cusps arising from cup-shaped cingulum (thereby creating tricuspid appearance) and ca. half height of main cusp. Lower premolars subequal in height but anterior premolars broader than both middle and posterior premolar.

**Geographic Variation**  No information.

**Similar Species**  Three other African Kerivoula have no comb-like fringe of hooked, bristle-like hairs on posterior margin of interfemoral membrane (Table 31, p. 724):

*K. smithii*. Outer lower incisor unicuspid (cingulum not distinctly raised on both sides of main cusp). Upper incisors comparatively long. Slightly larger (FA: 34.1 [32–36] mm; GLS: 13.1–14.1 mm) and heavier (5.9–7.0 g). Tragus longer (7.3–9.0 mm).


**Distribution**  Endemic to Africa. Recorded mainly from the Rainforest BZ (Western, West Central, South Central and East Central regions) with one record in the Northern Rainforest–Savanna Mosaic in Guinea and another in the Guinea Savanna BZ in Côte d’Ivoire. Known from only seven localities: Pic de Fon, Guinea; Tai N. P. and Comoé N. P., Côte d’Ivoire; Bitye (Dja R.), Cameroon; Eala, Koteli and Wafanya, DR Congo (Thomas 1912a, Schouteden 1944 [partim], J. Fahr unpubl., RMCA). A specimen from Ghana, originally identified as *K. cuprosa* (Koopman 1989), has been re-identified as *K. lanosa* (Koopman et al. 1995). Another record from Kenya (Fort Warwick, HZM 1.2066, Harrison 1957c) has been re-identified as *K. smithii* (J. Fahr unpubl.). Also many of the records from DR Congo, originally published as *K. cuprosa* (Allen 1917a, Döllman 1914, Schouteden 1944 [partim], Hayman et al. 1966 [partim], Aniaux de Faveaux 1984 [partim] and references therein) have been re-identified as *K. smithii* (Koopman 1965, J. Fahr unpubl.).

**Habitat**  Recorded from lowland rainforest, swamp forest and forest–savanna mosaic in the Guinea Savanna BZ (Comoé N. P., Côte d’Ivoire).

**Abundance**  Uncertain. Appears to be very rare, but probably very difficult to catch in mist-nets and by other methods used in the past; in Côte d’Ivoire, four individuals were captured with harp-traps, but none were caught in mist-nets (J. Fahr unpubl.).

**Remarks**  Wings broad; flight highly manoeuvrable; can hover for short periods. Possibly roosts among leaves as do other members of the genus. All specimens in Côte d’Ivoire were caught in dense vegetation with harp-traps at height of 1.5 m (n = 4). Likely to forage in cluttered spaces and likely to be a gleaner. Diet not known but delicate skull and dentition indicates that it probably consists of soft-bodied and rather small arthropods. Echolocation calls are steep, broad-band FM calls (details not known). Ectoparasites include a mite *Olabidocarpus bertsorum* (Acar.: Chirodiscidae) (Aniaux de Faveaux 1984, as *K. smithii*). Nothing else appears to be known about this species.

**Conservation**  IUCN Category: Data Deficient.

Only seven localities known. Could become threatened under criterion A4c because of loss of forest. Population trend not known. Major threats: loss and degradation of habitat as result of logging and agriculture.

**Measurements**

*Kerivoula cuprosa*

FA: 31.7 (30–33) mm, n = 8
WS (d): 216 (201–223) mm, n = 4
TL: 78.3 (74–83) mm, n = 7
T: 42.2 (40–44) mm, n = 7
E: 13.3 (12–14) mm, n = 8
Tr: 6.5 (5.5–7.4) mm, n = 5
Tib: 14.0 (14–15) mm, n = 7
HF: 6.9 (5.8–7.5) mm, n = 7
WT: 4.1 (4.0–4.5) g, n = 4
GLS: 12.8 (12.3–13.1) mm, n = 5
GWS: 8.1 (7.9–8.4) mm, n = 5
C–M*: 5.1 (5.0–5.3) mm, n = 7

Guinea, Côte d’Ivoire, Cameroon (holotype), DR Congo (BMNH, FC, RMCA, SMF)

**Key References**  Hayman et al. 1966; Koopman 1965; Schouteden 1944; Thomas 1912b.

Jakob Fahr