Sharing is caring: three bat species eating from the same tree in a village of Purulia district, West Bengal, India.

Fruit plants act as a major food source for frugivorous bats in semi-urban or cultivated ecosystems (Chakravarthy & Girish 2003). In return, fruit bats disperse the seeds and pollens of those plant species (Hodgkison et al. 2003). A Guava *Psidium guajava* tree (23.192°N, 86.051°E) at Baghmundi village, Purulia district, West Bengal, India was observed at night in August 2021 to identify the bat species dependent on it as literature showed August is the peak time when bats eat most of the Guava fruits (Chakravarthy & Girish 2003).

Three frugivorous bat species were sighted and photographed using Canon EOS 750D with 18–55 mm lens during the observation. The bat species were Greater Short-nosed Fruit Bat *Cynopterus sphinx* Vahl, 1797, Lesser Short-nosed Fruit Bat *Cynopterus brachyotis* Müller, 1838 & Indian Flying Fox *Pteropus*
Citation: Samanta, S. (2022). Sharing is caring: three bat species eating from the same tree in a village of Purulia district, West Bengal, India. Small Mammal Mail #441, In: Zoo’s Print 37(1): 61–62.

Acknowledgements: I am thankful to Dr. Sanjay Molur for identification of bat species & Mr. Sanjay Sondhi for the identification of moth species. I am grateful to Namita Samanta & Ankita Samanta for their support. I am also thankful to RHATC mentors and fellows & all the members of Green Plateau for their continuous encouragement.

Supriya Samanta
Wildlife Information Liaison Development, 12 Thiruvannamalai Nagar, Saravanampatti, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu 641035, India.
Green Plateau, Hatirampur, Bankura, West Bengal 722121, India.
Email: supriyasamanta1234@gmail.com

medius Temminck, 1825. P. medius always visited the high canopy fruits whereas C. brachyotis and C. sphinx targeted the under canopy fruits. They regurgitate the solid substance after sucking the juice from the fruit. Many other species are also dependent on the visit of bats to the tree. Various moths like Anomis sp., Ercheia sp. and one unidentified species of subfamily Herminiinae were observed to feed on the fruit saps opened by the bats. In daytime the Common Evening Brown Melanitis leda (Linnaeus, 1758) butterfly was observed to feed on fruit saps felled by the bats.

References:
