



STINAPA INFORMATION

OUR BATS

Bonaire has eight types of bats. Little is known about these wonderful mammals. They include some scarce and spectacular subspecies. We can divide our bats into two groups: the meat-eaters and the nectar-eaters. Both types are essential for our island and very useful. Let's start with the meat-eaters. They help take care of eliminating mosquitoes, flies and other insects. The phantom-face bat (*Mormoops megalophylla*) has a very weird face full of creases and has big ears. So far only 50 specimens of this type have been spotted in one single cave. It is very well possible that this is a subspecies that only be found on Bonaire. It flies just like a butterfly. This subspecies is also very scarce, only 100 to 150 are known to be in two caves. Once there was a very large colony in a cave that collapsed because a house was being built on it. The flat-nose bat (*Myotis nesopolus*) has a large membrane on his tail with which he catches insects. This one is real air-acrobat. He lives in caves or buildings. The pallas-felt bat (*Molossus molossus*). This type has a large tail. He prefers to live in attics or under roofs. He clings to walls with the nails on his wings and feet. If you share a roof with this animal, do respect him because he will eat a lot of nasty insects for you. The big harelip bat or large fisherman bat (*Noctilio leporinus*). This type has a white stripe on its back and can reach a wingspan of 40 cm. This bat catches fish with his feet by zigzagging over the water's surface. He lives in crevices in rock walls and you can smell from afar by the fishy smell. Thanks to the nectar- and fruit-eating bats cacti can grow on our island. Without bats no cacti! The long-tongue bat (*Glossophaga elongate*) has a tongue that can reach a length of 7 cm! As long as his whole body. He needs that long tongue to get the nectar out of the flowers. The 'Glosso' is fairly abundant island and lives in caves. The long-snout bat (*Leptonycteris curasoac*) looks like a "Glosso", but is much more shy. On Bonaire there are only three caves where they are known to be. The "Lepto" is only known on Curacao and Bonaire. The small leaf-nose bat (*Ametrida centurio*) has only been seen on Bonaire in the fifties of last century. We do not even know what he eats. Possibly fruits. For more information: <http://www.carmabi.org/files/vleermuizen%202.pdf>

Written by V. van Baronie, translated by Marcel Nahr.

For more information or comments: STINAPA, telephone 717 - 8444, info@stinapa.org

NOS TA BIBA DI NATURALESA



Traha huntu na un desaroyo duradero pa Boneiru