Livingstone's Fruit Bat

DOMAIN *Eukaryota*

KINGDOM *Animalia*

PHYLUM *Chordata*

CLASS *Mammalia*

ORDER *Chiroptera*

FAMILY *Pteropodidae*

GENUS *Pteropus*

SPECIES *P. livingstonii*

WHERE DO THEY HANG OUT?

Livingstone's fruit bats are found only on Anjouan and Mohéli in the Comoros Islands. They prefer tall trees on sheltered, southeast-facing slopes, often near permanent water sources.

A LOOK FOR THE SPOTLIGHT!

With fluffy black fur, golden highlights, rounded ears, and striking orange-to-reddish eyes, these flying foxes look like spooky puppies!

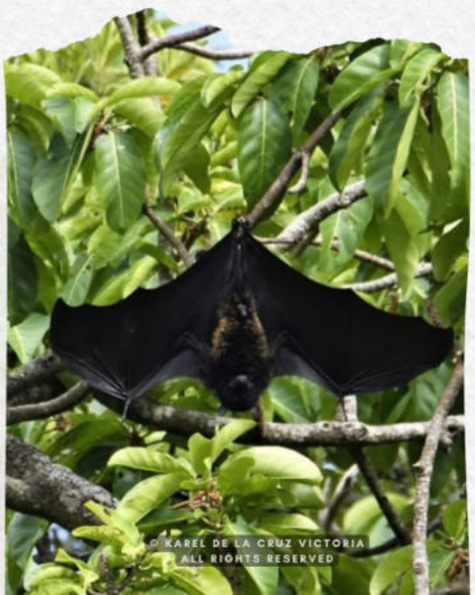
They measure around 12 inches (30 cm) long, with an incredible wingspan reaching nearly 5 feet (1.5 m)!

WHAT'S ON THE MENU?

No blood on this menu!

Livingstone's fruit bats primarily eat fruit, flowers, nectar, pollen, and leaves.

Figs are especially important during the dry season, while kapok flowers provide another valuable food source.



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LIFE IN THE TREES

Livingstone's fruit bats are social animals that gather in treetop roosts. They communicate through vocalizations and form complex social relationships. Unlike many bats, they're active during both day and night! Females generally give birth to a single pup, which depends on its mother for milk and protection.

HALLOWEEN ICON

Why are bats Halloween icons? One theory traces the connection to Samhain, an ancient Celtic festival. Bonfires may have attracted insects, drawing hungry bats into the night sky. Later, vampire folklore and stories like Dracula helped cement their spooky reputation. But only three bat species actually feed on blood!

THREATS TO THEIR SURVIVAL

Habitat loss

Climate Change

Habitat loss is the greatest threat to Livingstone's fruit bats. Forest clearing for agriculture and timber destroys important roosting and feeding trees.

Their tiny island range also leaves them vulnerable to powerful tropical cyclones, with climate change adding to the risks.

Did you know?

5 FUN FACTS ABOUT LIVINGSTONE'S FRUIT BAT

- **Island giants**: They're the largest bats native to the Comoros!
- **Masters of soaring**: They can ride rising warm air currents, called thermals, to conserve energy.
- **Daytime flyers**: Unlike many bats, they're active during daylight as well as at night.
- **A cloud of bats**: One collective noun for a group of bats is a cloud.
- Not blind at all: They rely heavily on their excellent eyesight and sense of smell to navigate and find food.

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