



Figure 1. Photo of bat sent in mid-September 2012

~

Observation # 27: *Mops midas* (Sundevall, 1843) record from Bela Bela, Limpopo Province, Republic of South Africa

Submitted by: Julio Balona, Trevor Morgan and Eve Pearse - Gauteng & Northern Regions Bat Interest Group (GNoR BIG)

Date of observation: mid-September 2012, late August 2015

Locality: South Africa, Limpopo Province, Farm Leeukuil, ± 20 km outside town of Bela Bela

GPS coordinates: 25.008°S ; 28.433°E

Through some acquaintances, GNoR BIG was notified in mid-September 2012



Figure 2. top (a) dorsal view and below (b) face of bat sent in late August 2015.

of a curious bat that had been seen on a building at Leeukuil farm outside Bela Bela. A single photo was sent of the beast in question (Figure 1).

Then in late August of 2015, GNoR BIG was sent photos of another bat that had fallen out of the roof of the building (Figures 2a and 2b).

From the photos the following features are noticeable in these bats:

- A tail that is not enclosed in a membrane.
- The fur forms a collar around the neck.
- There are light grey dorsal flecks.
- The snout is pig-like and the lips appear to be wrinkled.
- The leading edge of the pinnae are broad and triangular.

The above characteristics are all consistent with *Mops midas* and we are therefore confident that the bats belong to this species.

This is a notable new locality as the nearest published record for *M. midas* is in Lephalale (BALONA 2016), about one hundred and twenty kilometres north-west. Before this, the nearest recorded location was in the Lydenburg district, about two hundred kilometres east (MONADJEM *et al.* 2010).

Intriguingly, the residents of the farm claim that the bats are present only for about two weeks. Also, both reported bat encounters occurred at about the same time of the year. This suggests the possibility of a seasonal movement of this species through the area.

References

- BALONA, J., 2016. Observation #26: *Mops midas* (Sundevall, 1846) record from Lephalale, Limpopo Province. Republic of South Africa. *African Bat Conservation News* 43: 2. https://www.africanbats.org/Documents/Papers/Balona_2016c.pdf
- MONADJEM, A., TAYLOR, P. J., COTTERILL, F. P. D., SCHOEMAN, M. C. 2010. *Bats of southern and central Africa: a biogeographic and taxonomic synthesis*. Wits University Press: 544pp.