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URINATION BY THE LITTLE INDIAN HORSESHOE BAT, *RHINOLOPHUS*  
*LEPIDUS* BLYTH, ON INTRUDERS

Several species of bats are known to urinate on intruders as a means of offence. Harrison (1959) found that flying individuals of an unidentified horseshoe bat in Malaya gave out squirts of urine directed towards the intruder. Khajuria (1975) observed this habit in *Rhinopoma h. hardwickei*, *Taphozous m. melanopogon*, *Megaderma I. lyra*, *Scotophilus h. heathi* and *Scotophilus k. kuhli*, but there is no record of this habit in *Rhinolophus lepidus* Blyth which is reported here.

The observation was made on 22nd November, 1981 in a colony of 22 individuals of *Rhinolophus lepidus* in a ruined temple at Gurup, Burdwan dist., West Bengal at about 14.00 hrs. The bats were hanging very closely to one another forming clusters. On

our entry into the temple, there was no reaction of the bats, but as soon as we focussed the torch on them, they started flying inside the temple discharging drops of urine with a peculiar smell. Although the previous authors have taken it as a means of offence only, but it seems that this act of bats may be a threat display.

REFERENCES

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