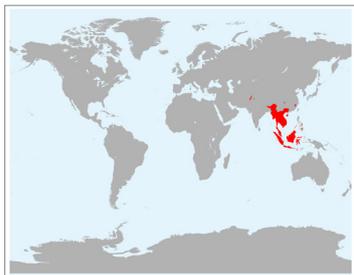




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Geographical range

Amazing Species: Hardwicke's Woolly Bat

Hardwicke's Woolly Bat, *Kerivoula hardwickii*, has been assessed as Least Concern on The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. Widespread in its distribution, it is found in southern China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

Unlike many bats which prefer to roost in caves or trees, the Hardwicke's Woolly Bat often lives in curled leaves of plants, such as gingers. In Borneo, some populations have a curious preference for sleeping inside a tropical pitcher plant, *Nepenthes hemsleyana*. *Nepenthes* species grow in nutrient deficient soil, so many of these carnivorous plants trap insects as their main nitrogen source. However, in this extraordinary mutualistic relationship, *Nepenthes hemsleyana* gains essential nutrients from the bat's droppings which in turn gains protective shelter within the plant's pitcher.

There are no conservation measures in place for this adaptable species, nor is it thought to be facing any major threats. Nevertheless, mutualistic interactions such as these demonstrate the importance of conserving biodiversity holistically since removal of a single species is likely to have repercussions for other species that may rely on it for survival.

Knowledge
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