

Bats in a Bamboo.

A large clump of the bamboo *Dendrocalamus pendulus* Ridley which had died after flowering in the Botanical Gardens Singapore was being cut down in May and one of the coolies while cutting the culms up into lengths and splitting them noticed a strange noise within a joint. On splitting it up three or four bats flew out but there being more inside he brought it to me tied up. On taking it to the museum and carefully opening it Dr. Hanitsch and I found no less than twenty-three bats of which four were adult females and nineteen were young ones. One of these was still clinging to the mother and sucking. The joint of bamboo in which these bats were enclosed was a foot in length and the diameter of the hollow inside was 2 inches. The septa at each node were perfect and unbroken, and the only possible entrance was made by a crack on one side which allowed of a narrow slip to be pushed outwards so that a triangular aperture a quarter of an inch across in its widest part appeared in the upper septum.

Through this very small space all these bats must have crept. The inside of the bamboo was wet and dark coloured and there were some dipterous larvae within.

In another clump of the same kind of bamboo, two other joints containing young bats of apparently the same kinds were opened. In one joint when opened, it having been felled and left for some days in the sun all the bats were dead and decomposed. They nearly filled the joint and were apparently about thirty in number. In the other several bats had escaped but there were a number of young ones and one half grown. Specimens of these bats were sent to the British Museum where Mr. Oldfield Thomas examined them and found them to be *Tylonycteris pachypus*, (*Vesperugo pachypus* Dobson). He writes, "This bat has an exceedingly flattened skull and thus many account for its ability to get

through a crack only a quarter of an inch wide. I never heard of specimens found in such a place before."

H. N. RIDLEY.



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