

## **Project Update: February 2008**

The objective of this project is to understand how changes in habitat quality affect populations of the foliage-roosting bat *Thyroptera tricolor*. To determine this, we selected five populations and surveyed them to observe if their behaviour varies according to differences in resource abundance. Since August 2006, we have captured and marked a combined total of 432 individuals. Our results indicate that there are significant geographic differences in the social and spacing behaviour of *T. tricolor*.

Some of these differences, particularly regarding home-range size and patterns of association, were correlated to the density of roosts, suggesting that resource abundance may be a critical ecological correlate of behaviour in bats. In addition, we have found that *T. tricolor* exhibits a reproductive pattern characterised by seasonal monoestry, with most births occurring from January through March. Thus, we will perform experiments on habitat degradation and radiotrack individuals once weaning occurs, in 3 or 4 months.