SEBA'S SHORT-TAILED FRUIT BAT

updated March 2017

Range	Central and South America; from Veracruz (southern Mexico) to Bolivia and Brazil (mid-South America); also in the Caribbean Islands
Habitat	Understory of tropical forests
Diet (wild)	Generalist, feeding on a least 50 different species of fruit; occasionally eat nectar and insects if fruit is not available
Diet (captivity)	Fruit
Description	Weight: 0.6 ounces. Rusty brown, leaf-shaped growth on the nose (to help with echolocation).
Lifespan	Wild: 5–6 years. Captivity: 12 years
Reproduction	Females give birth to one baby at a time in the spring. They forage for couple weeks after birth with their babies attached. Pups are left in the roost once they are heavier and nursed for four more weeks.
Behavior	Seba's short-tailed fruit bats roost mostly in caves and hollow trees, but will also take cover in buildings during the day. Roosts can have 30–300 individuals. Males and females roost separately, with the exception of one male for each female group. They will use scent and sight to locate fruit and carry it away to perch up high where it can be eaten safely. Seba's short-tailed fruit bats fly out at sunset, forage for fruit, eat for about 15 minutes, then nap. They will repeat this cycle throughout the night. They use their memory of an area to get to the general location of food and then use their sense of smell, sight, and echolocation to hone in on the fruit.
Our animals	26 males. Birth date and place unknown.
Cool stuff	• Short-tailed fruit bats eat 35 different fruit species of the genus *Piper* each night, which translates to 350–2,500 seeds dispersed per night per individual bat. They may also be important pollinators of many plant species. • Over 500 plant species rely on bats to pollinate their flowers, including species of mango, banana, cocoa, durian, guava and agave (used to make tequila). The pollination of plants by bats is called chiropterophily.

Phylum	**Class**	**Order**	**Family**	**Genus**	**species**
Chordata	Mammalia	Chiroptera	Phyllostomidae	Carollia	*C. perspicillata*