

short or (externally) absent. There are four upper and either two or four lower incisors.

The accusation of blood-sucking, which has been preferred against most of the *Phyllostomidæ*, has caused the name *Vampyrus* to be applied to this genus. The observations of later travellers, however, especially those of Mr. Bates*, have completely vindicated the character of the species, and shown that its diet is really principally vegetarian.

Two well-marked species are known, their differences having been considered by Professor Peters to merit even generic distinction. Both are members of our fauna; and they may readily be distinguished by the following characters:—

1. *V. spectrum*. Tail absent; incisors $\frac{4}{4}$. Forearm 4".20. Fur reddish-brown above, reddish-yellow beneath.
2. *V. auritus*. Tail short; incisors $\frac{4}{2}$. Forearm 3".35. Fur dark grizzled-brown above, paler greyish-brown beneath.

1. *Vampyrus spectrum*.

Vespertilio spectrum, Linnæus, Syst. Nat. i. p. 46 (1766, ex Seba)¹.

Phyllostoma hastatum, Gray, Zool. Voy. 'Sulphur,' p. 19 (nec Pallas)².

Vampyrus spectrum, Peters, Monatsb. Ak. Berl. 1865, p. 504³; Frantzius, Arch. f. Naturg. xxxv. 1, p. 262⁴; Dobson, Cat. Chir. Brit. Mus. p. 470, pl. xxiv. fig. 3⁵.

Hab. GUATEMALA⁵; NICARAGUA, Realejo (*Belcher, Mus. Brit.*^{2 5}); COSTA RICA, Lepanto (*Frantzius & Hoffmann, Mus. Berol.*⁴); PANAMA (*M'Leannan, Mus. Brit.*).—WEST INDIES⁵; GUIANA⁵; BRAZIL⁵.

The range of the Vampire Bat includes most of the northern portion of the Neotropical Region, extending to the West-Indian Islands. On the Upper Amazons Mr. Bates found it to be by far the most abundant of the Leaf-nosed Bats, frequenting villages and churches, and feeding, as was proved by the contents of their stomachs, on various fruits and sometimes on coleopterous insects†. To the northward the species extends to Central America. There are specimens from Panama and Nicaragua in the British Museum, the latter of which was erroneously referred to *Phyllostoma hastatum* by Gray‡. Dr. v. Frantzius says it is not uncommon in Costa Rica, but is confined to the hot regions near the coast; and Mr. Dobson tells me that he has seen examples from Guatemala, where, however, it is probably rare, there being no specimens in Mr. Salvin's collections.

* 'Naturalist on the Amazons,' ii. pp. 332, 333.

† *Ibid.* ii. p. 332.

‡ *Cf. infra*, p. 42.