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THE SYSTEMATIC RELATIONSHIP OF HIPPOSIDEROS COMMersoni matungensis TO OTHER SPECIES OF RHINOlOPHOIDAE

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The hyoid morphology of *Hipposideros commersoni matungensis* was dissected and compared to the morphology of other bats in the family Rhinolophidae. Several significant differences in morphology were found: a modified stylohyal, fused to the auditory bulla; retention of an omohyoid; loss of the stylohyoid; addition of a new muscle, possibly from the stylopharyngeus; insertion of the jugulohyoid onto the thyrohyal; and insertion of the ceratohyoid onto only the stylohyal. Cladistic analysis suggests that of all bats examined, *H. commersoni* and *H. armiger* are most closely related. This result is unexpected because the ranges of the two species are geographically distant: *H. commersoni* is an African bat, whereas *H. armiger* is from East Asia.