

# Predator Defence Mechanisms in Swiftlets

How Cave-nesting swiftlets in the  
South Pacific vary their breeding  
behaviour to resist different  
predatory offensives.



Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus* APODIDAE -no feet.



Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus* APODIDAE





## Needletails drinking




*White-throated Needletails drinking*

*Kobble BBO area SE Old ©Tom Tarrant December 2009*



Poster: [Marc Guyt](#)

Scientific name: [Apus apus](#) 

Drinking on the wing.



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Poster: [tvorsouw](#) ★

Scientific name: [Apus apus](#) 🌐

Dutch name: [Gierzwaluw](#)

English name: [Common Swift](#)

Place: [Veghel](#)

Date: **25 May 2006**

Pic Description:

Posted: **Thu 25 May 2006, 5:23**







Radiotracking fledgling & pre-breeding Common Swifts.





Swifts are bullet-shaped.





2-day old Glossy Swiftlet nestling.





Uniform Swiftlet, Papua New Guinea.



Common Swift, Erich Kaisers Colony, Kronberg, Germany





Fork-tailed Swift.





**Common Swift, Far Ings NR, Lincolnshire** (*Photo: Don Davis*)







Australian Swiftlet Hovering  
flight: Clam Cavern.



Alula, visible on left nestling in Erich's colony, Germany





Eurasian Jay: preening.



Hatchling White-rumped Swiftlet - Fiji.



Faecal pellets, Chillagoe: Quoll/cat, Echidna, Python, ?







Entrance to Swiftlet breeding chamber, NewSouthlander.





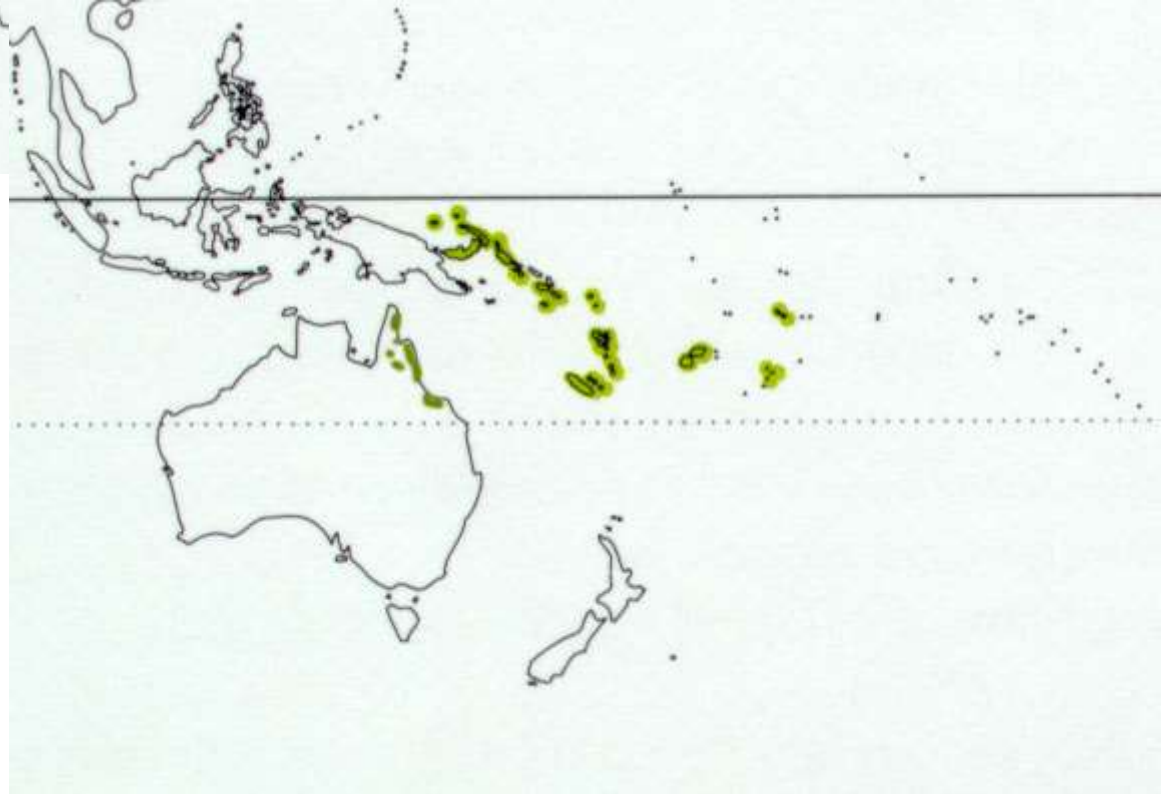
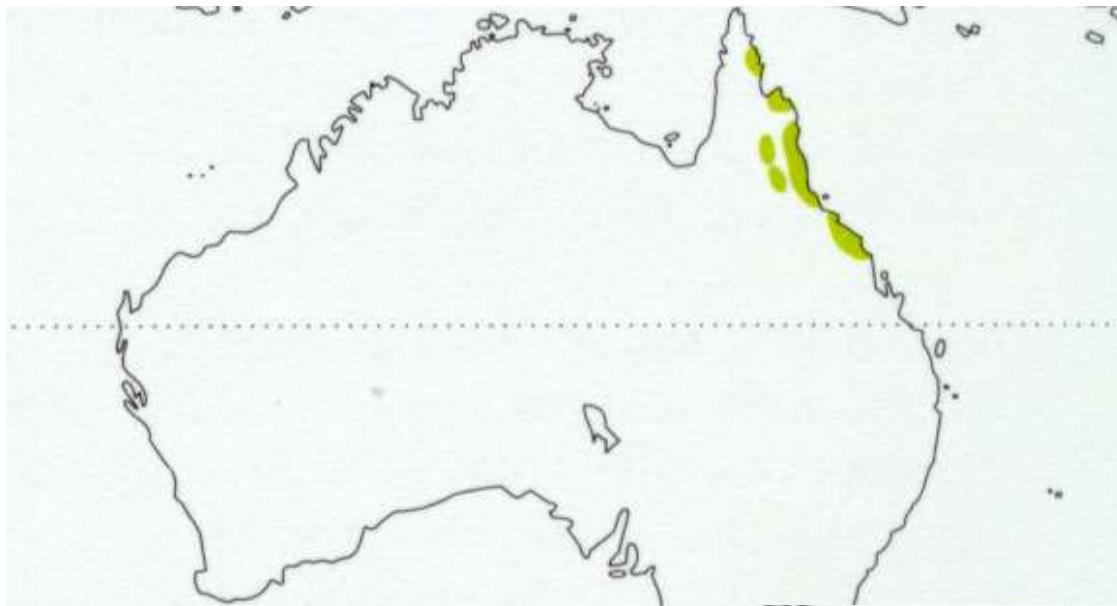
Dooloomai Falls Breeding site.

















Adult White-rumped Swiftlet on nest Cikobia-I-Lau





Breeding bird on Viti Levu . . .note moult in wing & rump.





















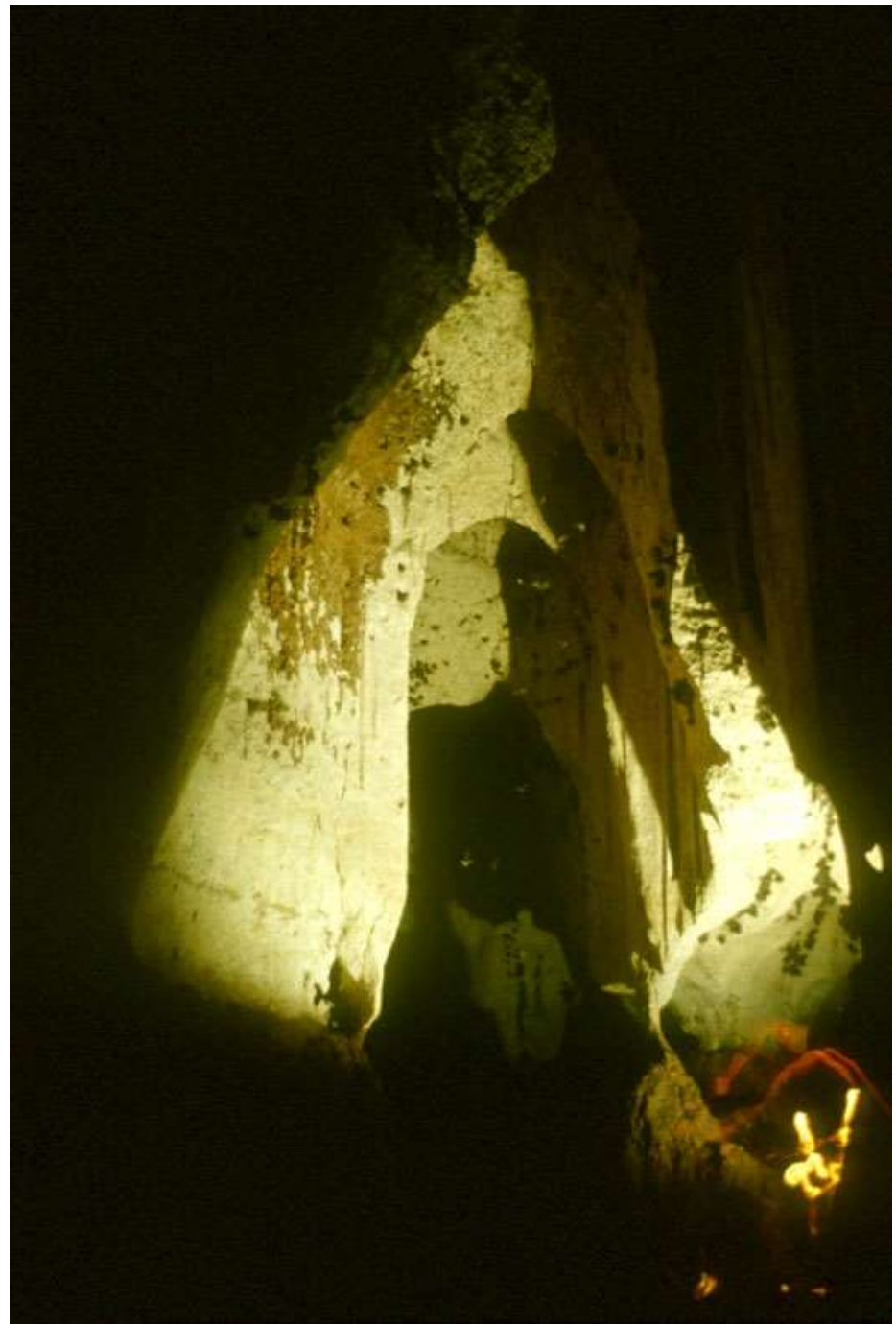


Long wings can be a problem when nests are close

Nasinu -9-mile caves, Fiji.

Nests nearest cave entrance:

1. Not as many as in totally dark zone.
2. On overhanging surface.



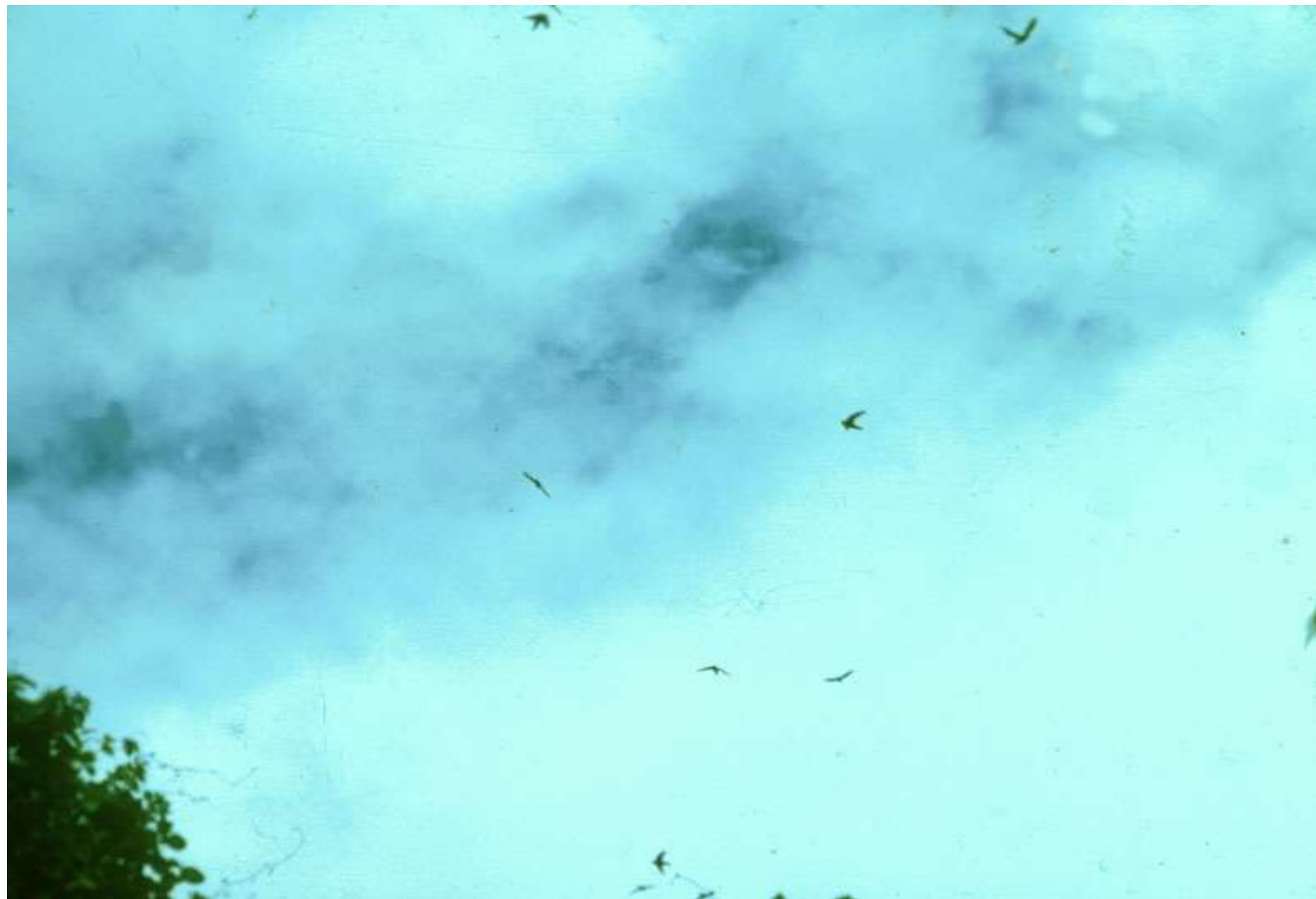














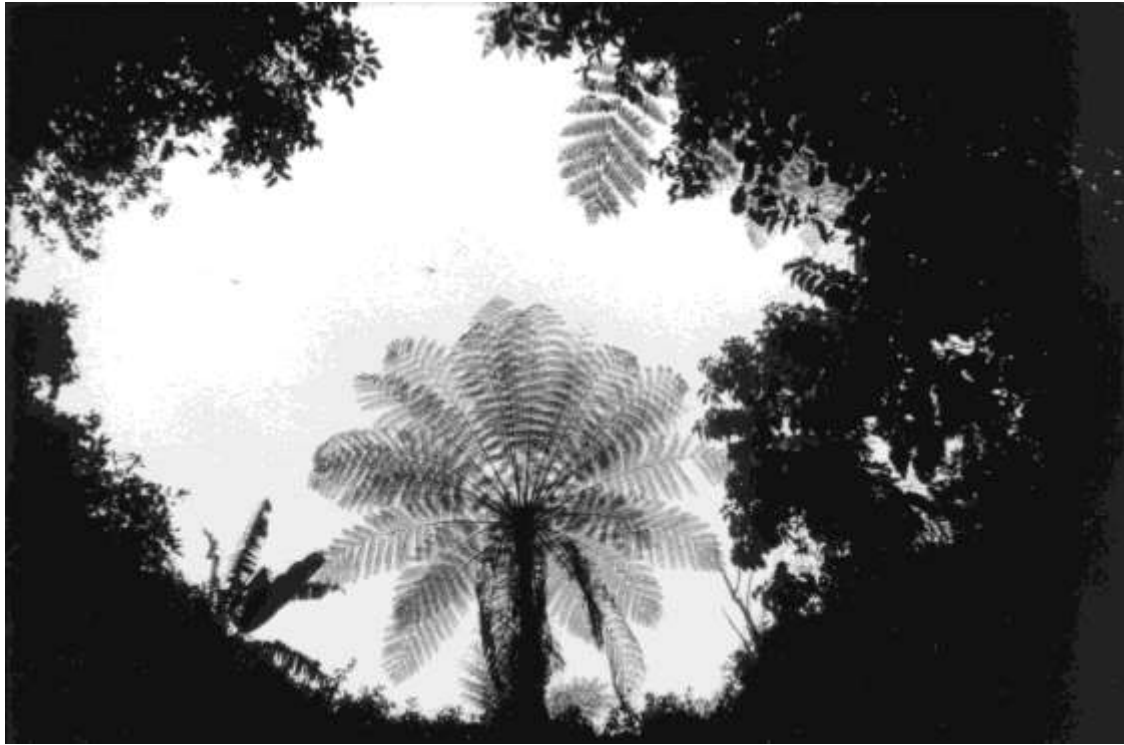
*Aerodramus s. spodiopygius*

Samoa









In Paradise, even cave entrances are pretty.







Coconut Crabs











































Jaw of Quoll

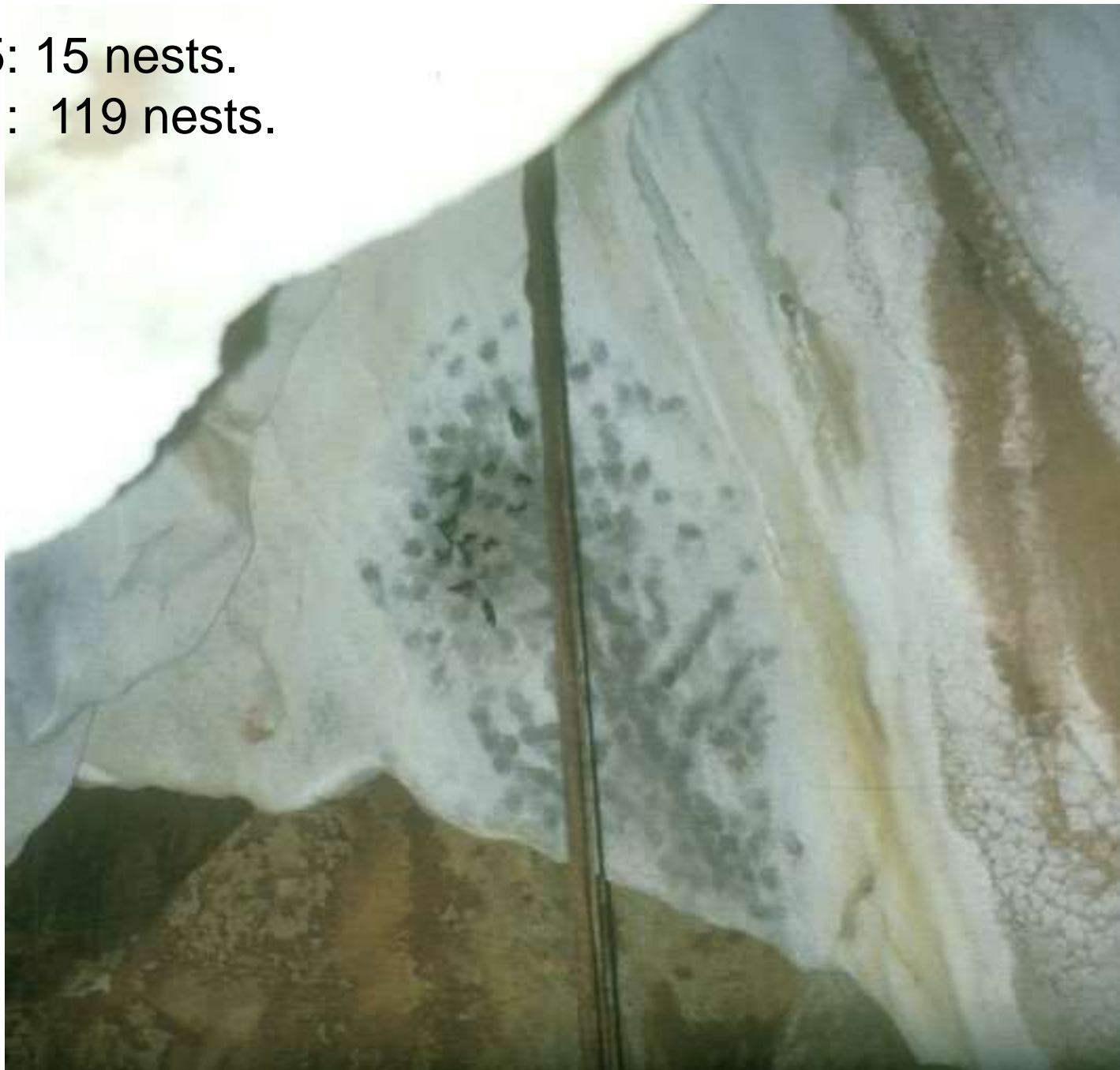




Royal Arch Cave, Swiftlet Cavern: 102 nests 1972.

1985: 15 nests.

2001: 119 nests.







Australian Swiftlet. Clam Cavern, Chillagoe.





Upper Doolamai Falls Colony, Finch Hatton Gorge





Lower Doolamai Falls Colony, Finch Hatton Gorge









# White-rumped Swiftlet

## Rennell Island

Photo G. Jones



# White-rumped Swiftlet

## Rennell Island

Photo G. Jones





# White-rumped Swiftlet

## Rennell Island

Photo G. Jones



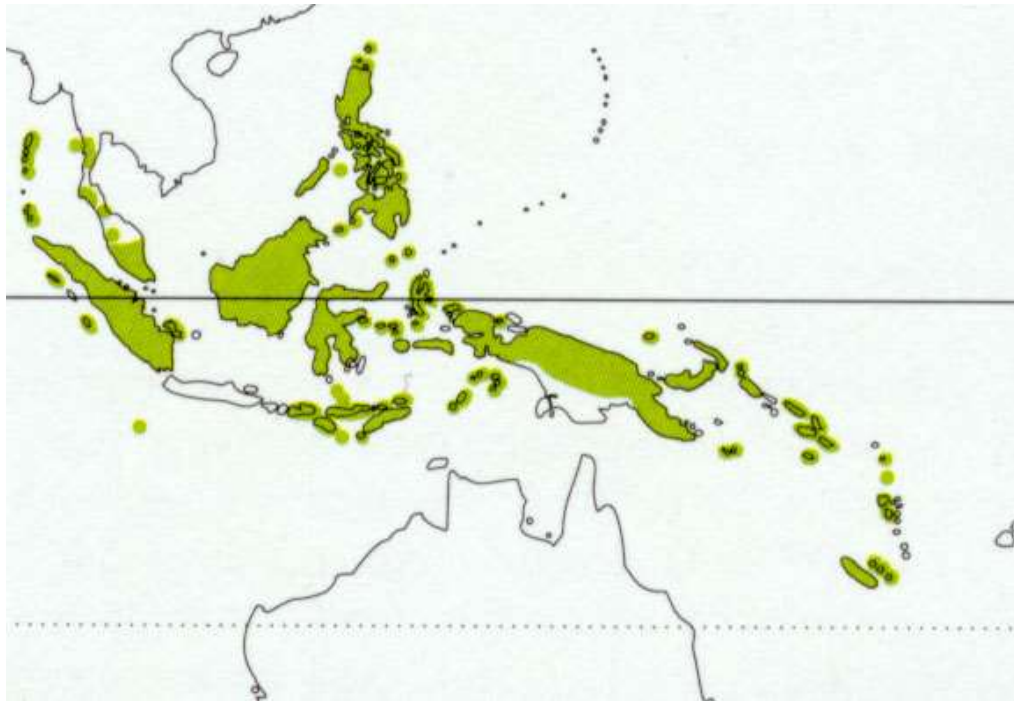
# White-rumped Swiftlet

## Rennell Island

Photo G. Jones







Distribution of Glossy Swiftlet





Glossy Swiftlets  
Sabah,



Entrance to old mine,  
Mt Diamond, PNG.













2-day old Glossy Swiftlet nestling.



2-day old Glossy Swiftlet nestling.









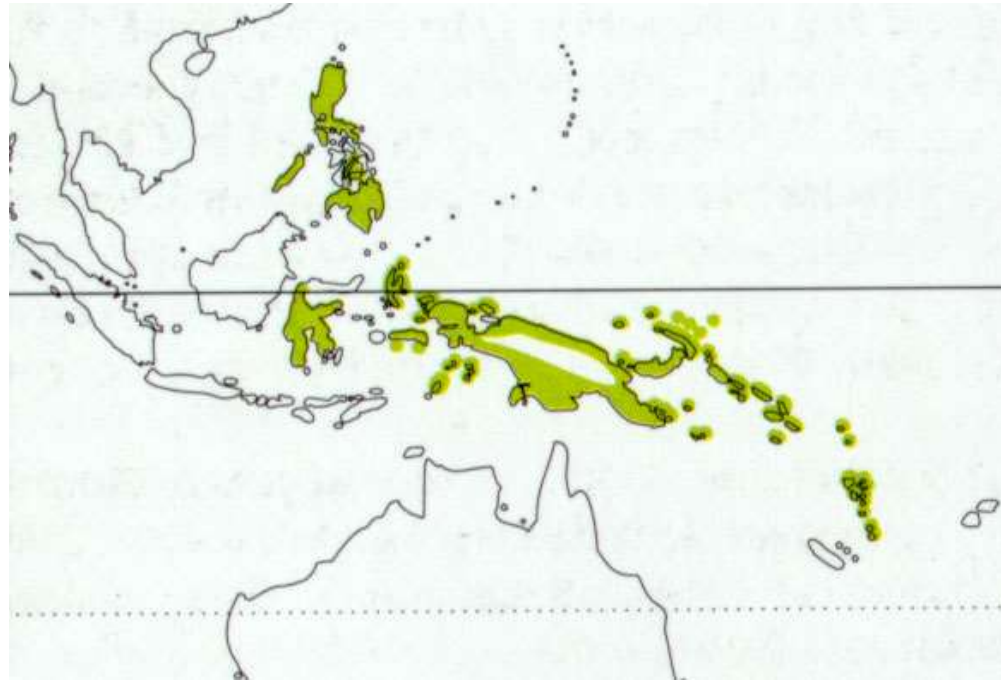


Note the naked tarsus of the Glossy Swiftlet.

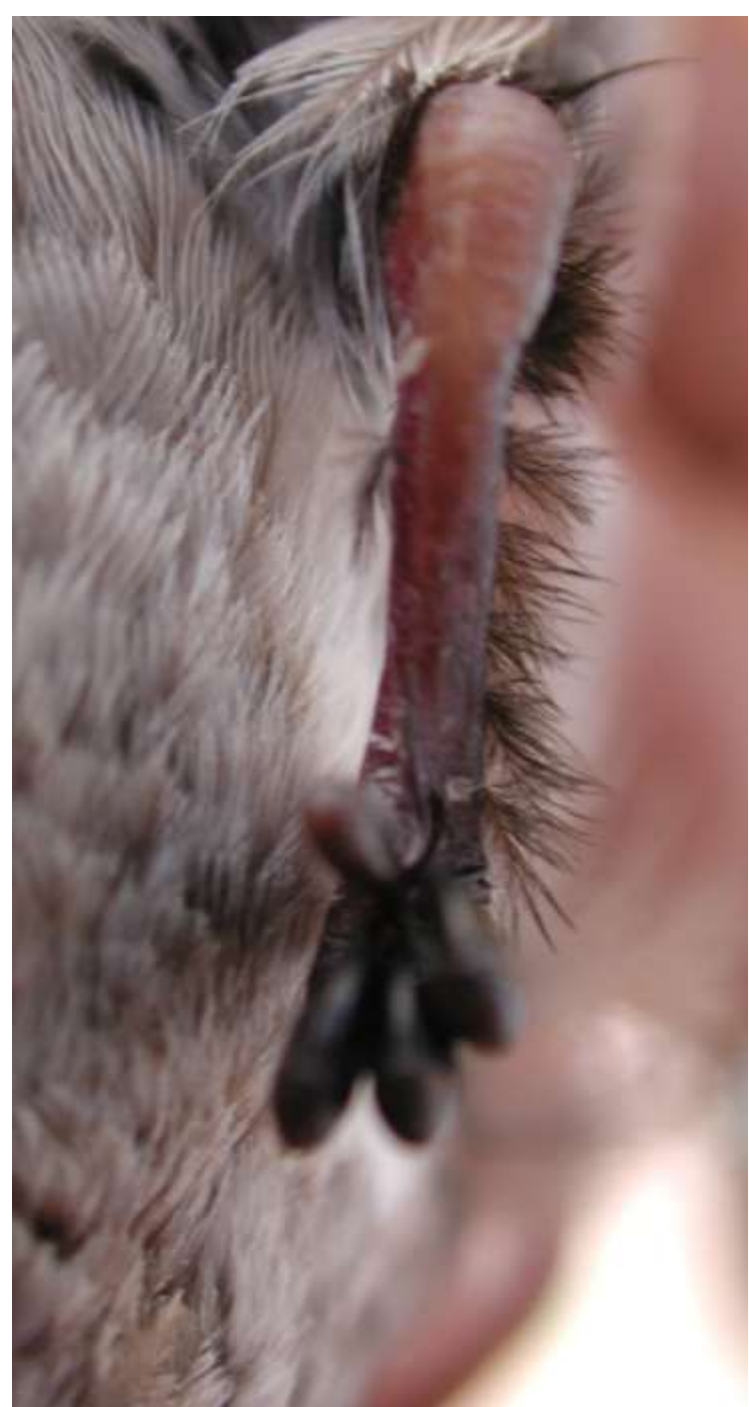


Uniform Swiftlets have quite long tails.





Distribution of Uniform Swiftlet





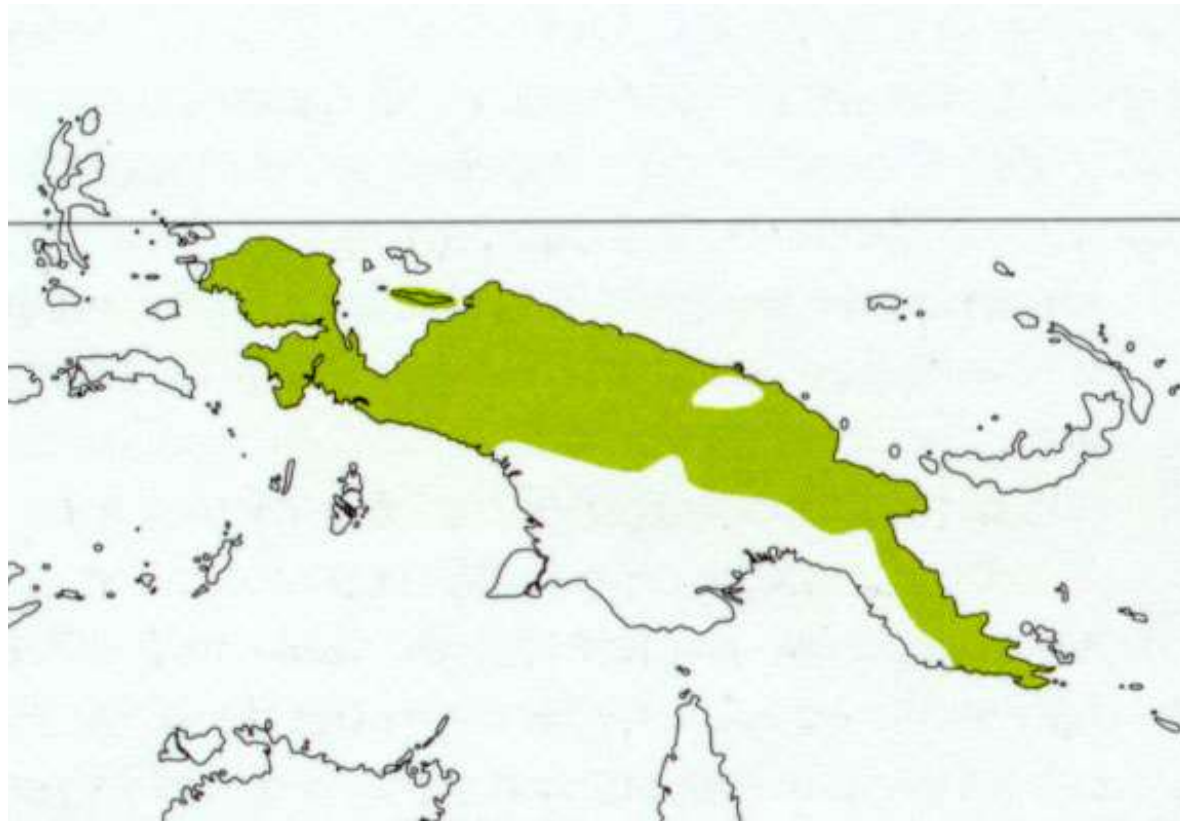






This Uniform Swiftlet nest was in the Copper mine that the Glossy Swiftlets used at Mt Diamond. This meant that it was in the twilight zone - unusual for this echo-locating species.





Distribution of Mountain Swiftlet



Mtn Swiftlet, West Papua.





Mountain Swiftlet: Mt Hagen.

< Uniform Swiftlet

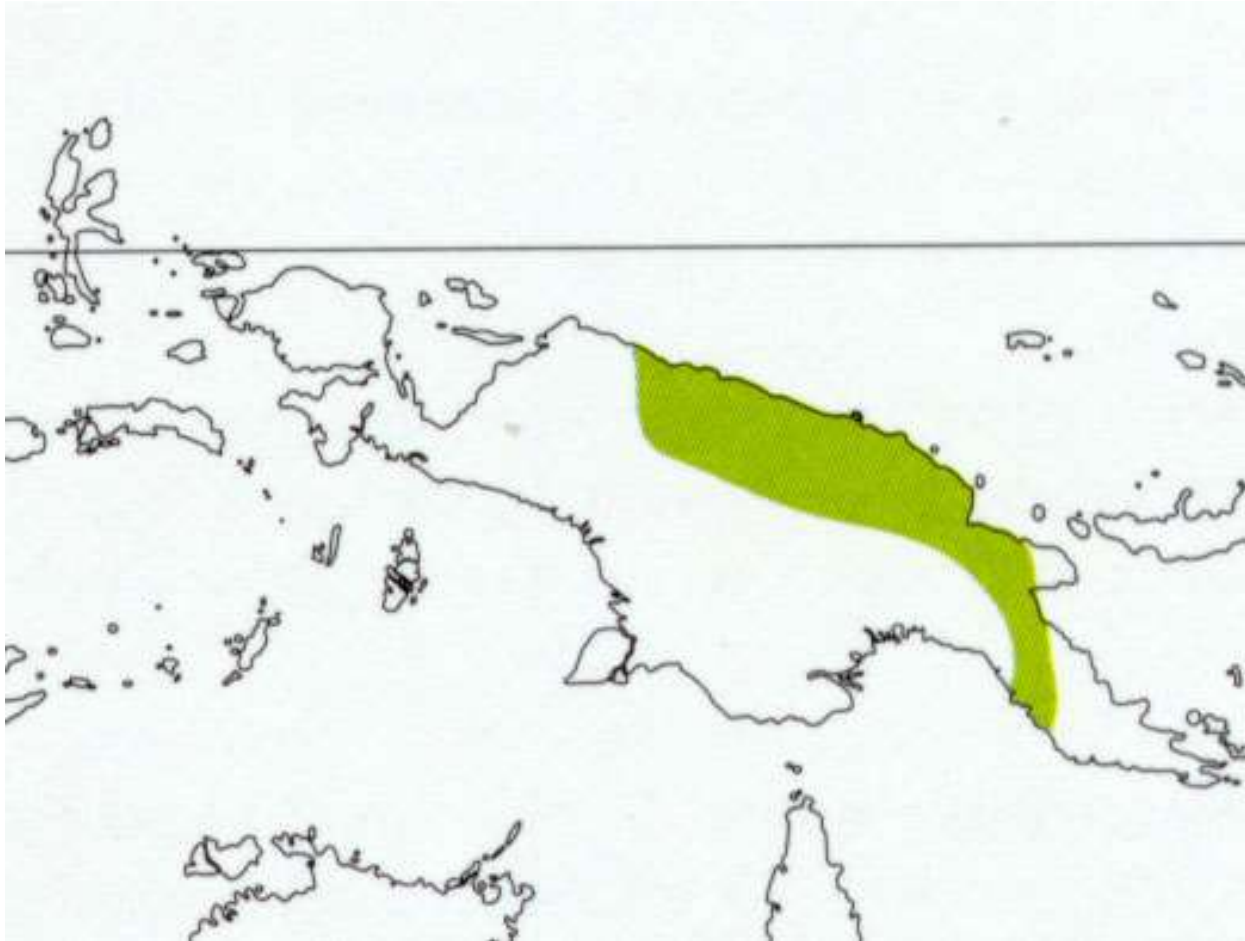


Mtn. Swiftlet.





Mountain Swiftlet  
Mount Hagen. Some  
Individuals have paler  
rumps than backs  
& tails.



Distribution of Three-toed Swiftlet.









Three-toed Swiftlet  
Losavi Cave,





Three-toed Swiftlet  
Losavi Cave,





Three-toed Swiftlet: supposed to have paler throat.



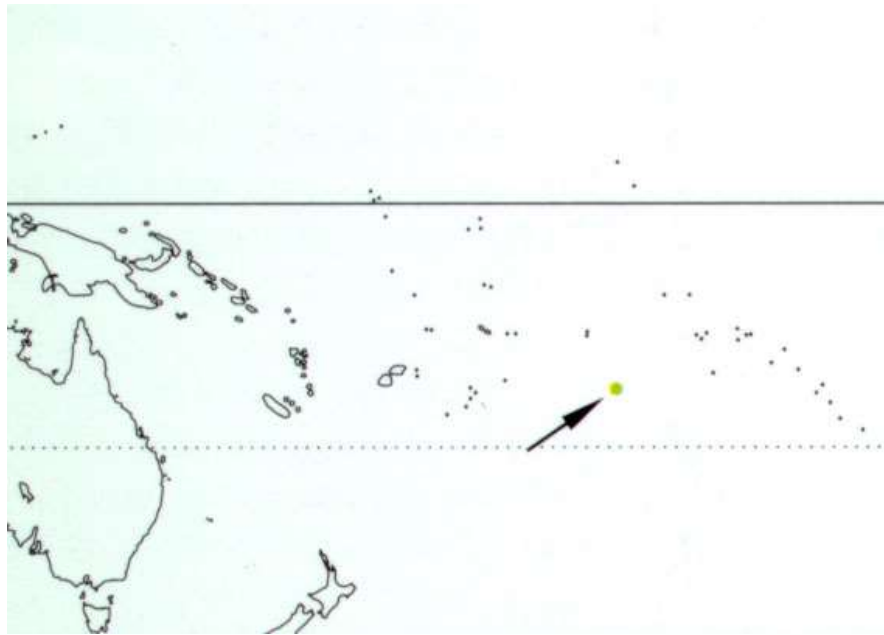




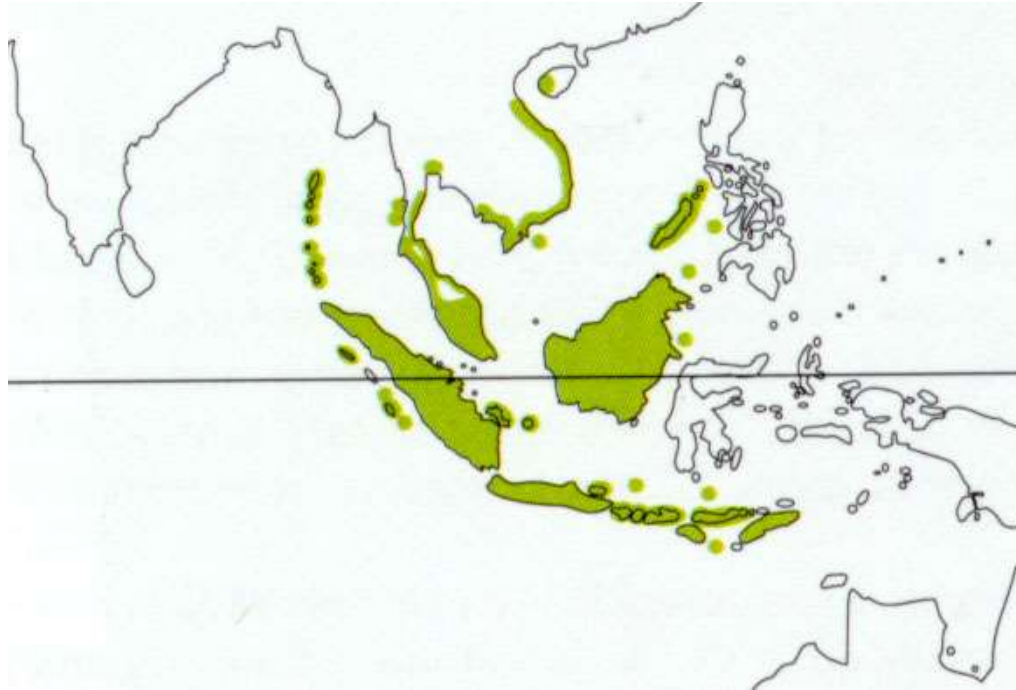








Distribution of Atiu Swiftlet



Distribution of Edible-nest Swiftlet







Commercial swiftlet-nest farm











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Possible Edible-nest Swiftlet\_7223b.jpg