

Bats!

Burton Lim, Assistant Curator, Mammalogy
Royal Ontario Museum

[Podcast begins with music and title: Media Offline: Researchatrom]

[Cut to close up of Burton Lim's hands holding a preserved bat specimen]

[Cut to shot of Burton Lim arranging preserved bat specimens on a white tray]

[Cut to Burton Lim, Assistant Curator, Mammalogy standing in the 1980s Biodiversity Gallery] **Burton:** My name is Burton Lim, I'm Assistant Curator of Mammalogy at the ROM. I have a particular interest in bats.

[Cut to black screen with text: There are over 1000 known species of bats, almost a fourth of all known mammal species]

[Music stops; Cut to shot of Burton emerging through a red door into a hallway]
Burton: Bats are cool, as a lot of kids say *[Cut to Burton unlocking a storage cabinet]* when they come out of the bat cave. *[Cut to close up of Burton pulling out a wooden storage tray]* I like to research all bats *[Cut to Burton sitting at a microscope]* so no particular families or groups.

[Cut to Burton in the 1980s Biodiversity Gallery] **Burton:** A lot of the work is looking at the biodiversities of the number of species of bats, so I want to see all and capture all bats.

[Music starts; Cut to still photograph of Burton holding a bat specimen in the field]

[Cut to still photograph of Burton in a cave]

[Cut to still photograph of Burton showing a bat specimen to a group of children in the field]

[Cut to an image of the globe; zoom in on the northern region of South America]
Burton: Most of my research is in South America *[Fade to map with countries delineated]* Primarily in Guyana *[Guyana is highlighted in black; cut to Burton in the 1980s Biodiversity Gallery]* so a lot of the stuff I see is sort of new to me.

[Cut to still photo of Burton arranging bat specimens on a tray in the field]

[Cut to still of Burton in the jungle]

[Cut to still of Burton at a table]

[Cut to black screen with text: Most bats fit in the palm of your hand]

Burton: There're a lot of myths about bats. *[Fade to Burton in the 1980s Biodiversity Gallery]* People think that they're scary but they're not.

[Cut to illustration of a monk being bitten by a bat] **Burton:** So one myth is that bats will fly into your hair but bats echo-locate *[Cut to still photograph of a bat with animated yellow lines representing echo location]* so they full-well exactly where you are *[Cut to still of Burton preparing a bat specimen in the field]* so the chances of that happening are very slim.

[Cut to Burton in the 1980s Biodiversity Gallery] **Burton:** Bats are actually quite beneficial.

[Cut to still of a flock of bats at sunset] **Burton:** They eat insects...

[Cut to still close up of a bat on a leaf] **Burton:** ...pollinate flowers...

[Cut to Burton in the 1980s Biodiversity Gallery] **Burton:** They're not actually that scary at all.

[Music cuts in; cut to still close up of a bat specimen, text: CARROLLIA BREVICAUDA]

[Cut to still close up of a bat specimen, text: ARTUIBEUS GNOMUS]

[Cut to still close up of a bat specimen, text: EPTISICUS CHIRIQUINUS]

[Cut to still close up of a bat specimen, text: MOLUS MOLOSSUS]

[Cut to still close up of a bat specimen, text: VAMPYRESSA BIDENS]

[Cut to still close up of a bat specimen, text: SACCOPTERYX BILINEATA]

[Cut to black screen with text: Bats are the only mammal that can fly]

[Music ends; cut to Burton in the 1980s Biodiversity Gallery] **Burton:** There are a lot of species of bats, *[Cut to close up of jars of preserved bat specimens]* so a lot of the work I do *[Cut to shot of Burton picking up one of the jars]* even though my main research interest is in the evolution of bats *[Cut to shot of Burton carrying the jar]* we also collect information on the biodiversity, *[Cut to Burton in the 1980s Biodiversity Gallery]* so that information is very useful for proposing National Parks and protected areas.

[Music cuts in; Cut to black screen with text: For more information visit Bat Conservation International, www.batcon.org]

[Screen fades to white; Red text appears: Schad Gallery of Biodiversity; a green and black animated butterfly flutters across the text]

[Music fades out and podcast ends as screen fades to white]