

Ahool

STR-CRYPT-018 / REV A / 2026.09.08

Ahool takes its name from a cry reported above Java’s forest. A later reference book traces the account to Bartels, while the enormous bat behind the sound remains unverified.

STATUS	Later attributed account; original observation not verified
CLASSIFICATION	STR
MATERIAL	Java, Indonesia
DISPOSITION	PUBLIC / SOURCED STORY
CATEGORY	Strange Files
RECORD TYPE	Cryptids
STORY HISTORY	Bartels account placed in 1927; cited published telling in 1966

THE ACCOUNT

In the account summarized by George Eberhart, Ernst Bartels was sleeping near Cijengkol in Java in 1927 when flapping wings and an unfamiliar call woke him. The sound became the creature’s name: Ahool. Later descriptions gave the caller a bat-like body much larger than an ordinary flying fox. The forest supplied no specimen to complete that outline. What endured was the remembered interruption, a voice passing overhead that seemed to belong to something the listener could not readily place.

FOLLOWING THE TRAIL

Eberhart’s 2002 reference book cites an article by Bartels and Ivan Sanderson in the July 1966 issue of Fate. That gives the retelling a traceable publication, although the original magazine account was not inspected here. A later online reprint also preserves alternative bird explanations. Neither source establishes a giant unknown bat. The report’s date is therefore attributed to Eberhart, rather than claimed as independently verified field documentation.

WHY IT STAYS WITH US

The name is the durable artifact here. A short written imitation of a call can travel much farther than the sound itself. By the time another reader reaches the forest in their imagination, the syllables already seem to have a body waiting behind them.

WHERE THIS TELLING COMES FROM

Mysterious Creatures: A Guide to Cryptozoology - Ahool, p. 7

George M. Eberhart / ABC-CLIO, 2002; Ethiopian National Academic Digital Library

<https://ndl.ethernet.edu.et/bitstream/123456789/46979/1/George%20M.%20Eberhart.pdf>

Ahool

Biology Online

<https://www.biologyonline.com/articles/ahool>

RETURN TO THE STORY

Ahool

Visit the record for its illustrations and further reading.

<https://u225x.com/record/STR-CRYPT-018>