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Title: A New Bat (Myotis) From Mexico

Author: E. Raymond Hall

Release Date: February 1, 2010 [EBook #31147]

Language: English

Credits: Produced by Chris Curnow, Joseph R. Hauser, Joseph Cooper and the Online Distributed Proofreading Team at <https://www.pgdp.net>

*** START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK A NEW BAT (MYOTIS) FROM MEXICO ***

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS PUBLICATIONS
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Volume 14, No. 13, pp. 161-164, 1 fig.
May 21, 1962

A New Bat (Myotis) From Mexico

BY

E. RAYMOND HALL

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
LAWRENCE
1962

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS PUBLICATIONS, MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Editors: E. Raymond Hall, Chairman, Henry S. Fitch,
Theodore H. Eaton, Jr.

Volume 14, No. 13, pp. 161-164, 1 fig.
Published May 21, 1962

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
Lawrence, Kansas

PRINTED BY
JEAN M. NEIBARGER, STATE PRINTER
TOPEKA, KANSAS
1962

29-3265

A New Bat (Myotis) from Mexico

BY
E. RAYMOND HALL

A single specimen of little brown bat from the northern part of the state of Veracruz seems to be of an heretofore unrecognized species. It is named and described below.

Myotis elegans new species

Holotype.—Female, adult, skin and skull, No. 88398 Museum of Natural History, The University of Kansas; 12-1/2 mi. N. Tihuatlán, 300 ft. elevation, Veracruz, Mexico; obtained on September 24, 1961, by Percy L. Clifton, original No. 985.

Geographic distribution.—Known only from the type locality.

Diagnosis.—A small-footed species having a short tail and small skull. Pelage on upper parts near (16' *I*) Prout's Brown (capitalized color terms after Ridgway, Color Standards and Color Nomenclature, Washington, D. C., 1912), and more golden on underparts; ears pale brownish and flight-membranes only slightly darker; thumb small (7.5 mm. including wrist); tragus slender but deeply notched. Longitudinal, dorsal profile of skull relatively straight but frontal region elevated from rostrum and lambdoidal region elevated from posterior part of parietal region; posterior margin of P4 (in occlusal view) notched.

Comparisons.—Among named kinds of *Myotis*, *M. elegans* shows most resemblance to the species *M. californicus* and *M. subulatus*. Differences from the latter include shorter tail and ear, more golden color on underparts, pale (not blackish) lips, ears and flight membranes, more slender tragus, shorter skull, posterior border of P4 (in occlusal view) more deeply notched, and longitudinal dorsal profile of skull higher in frontal and lambdoidal regions.

Differences from *M. californicus* include shorter tail, more golden color on underparts, deeper notch in tragus, shorter skull, notched instead of smooth posterior border of P4 (in occlusal view), longitudinal, dorsal profile of skull less abruptly elevated in frontal region and with (instead of without) pre-lambdoidal depression. From *M. c. mexicanus* that occurs to the north, west, and south of the type locality of *M. elegans* the latter further differs in darker color, paler ears, paler flight membranes, and lesser size, including skull.

Differences from *M. nigricans* of the same region include reddish instead of black pelage, smaller hind foot, smaller skull, rostrum smaller in relation to remainder of skull, narrower interorbital region, and absence of a sagittal crest.

Measurements.—Total length, 79; length of tail, 34; length of hind foot, 7.5; length of ear from notch, 12; length of tragus, 6.5; weight, 4 grams; length of forearm, 33.0; greatest length of skull, 12.4; condylobasal length, 11.9; interorbital constriction, 3.2; breadth of braincase, 6.1; occipital depth, 4.5; length of mandible, 8.9; length of maxillary tooth-row, 4.6; maxillary breadth at M3, 4.9; length of mandibular tooth-row, 5.0. Degree of wear on teeth, stage 2 (in terminology of Miller and Allen, Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., 144, May 25, 1928).

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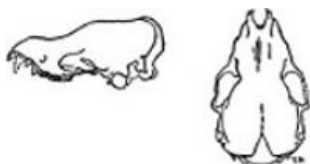


Fig. 1. Lateral view (left) and dorsal view (right) of the holotype of *Myotis elegans*, x 2.

Remarks.—The longitudinal dorsal profile of the skull and the deeply notched posterior border of P4 seem to be distinctive of *elegans*. When the characters of *elegans* first were tabulated it was felt that it probably was only subspecifically different from some previously named species. But further study of the distinctive characters indicates that they are outside the range of variation of any near relative of *elegans* and it, therefore, is here accorded specific rank.

Material examined.—Known only from the holotype.

Transmitted April 2, 1962.

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The proportion (x2) in the figure caption is taken from the original text; actual sizes may be larger or smaller, depending on your monitor. The dimension corresponds to a monitor resolution of 100dpi.

*** END OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK A NEW BAT (MYOTIS) FROM MEXICO ***

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