



12-31-1975

New record of the bat *Plecotus phyllotis* from Utah

Richard M. Poché

School of Forestry and Conservation, University of California, Berkeley

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/gbn>

Recommended Citation

Poché, Richard M. (1975) "New record of the bat *Plecotus phyllotis* from Utah," *Great Basin Naturalist*: Vol. 35 : No. 4 , Article 15.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/gbn/vol35/iss4/15>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Western North American Naturalist Publications at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Great Basin Naturalist by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.

NEW RECORD OF THE BAT *PLECOTUS PHYLLOTIS* FROM UTAH

Richard M. Poché¹

ABSTRACT.— In June 1974 a scrotal male Mexican big-eared bat (*Plecotus phyllotis*) was netted near Hurricane, Utah. This account represents the third report of the species from Utah and extends the range approximately 330 km west of previous accounts. Adjacent state records are located approximately 64 km to the southeast in Arizona and 80 km southwest in Nevada.

The Mexican big-eared bat has been reported from Utah by Black (1970) and Armstrong (1974). Both records were from San Juan County about 8 km N Blanding and 65 km NW Monticello, respectively. A specimen was reported from Pipe Springs National Monument area in Arizona by Genoways and Jones (1967), and one from the Mesquite, Nevada, region by M. J. O'Farrell (personal communication).

On 25 June 1974 a scrotal male Mexican big-eared bat was obtained in a mist net over Gould Wash, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, sec. 19, T. 42 S, R. 12 W, Washington Co., Utah. The locality lies approximately 7 air km southeast of the town of Hurricane. The capture of this specimen extends the range in Utah approximately 330 km to the west and represents only the third report from that state. The Arizona report is from an area about 64 km southeast of Hurricane and the Nevada account 80 km to the southwest. General similarity in habitat in the area between Hurricane and the southeastern reports suggests that *P. phyllotis* probably inhabits most of southern Utah.

The Mexican big-eared bat obtained near Hurricane, Utah, was netted over one of three small ponds remaining in the wash, striking the net approximately 1 m above the surface of the water between 0100 and 0530 hours. It was examined for ectoparasites, of which there were none, marked (with a 3 mm hole in the plagiopatagium, near the pollex, between the 4th and 5th phalanges of the right wing), and released. The bat flew west along the wash and disap-

peared into the canyon. Six male scrotal *Pipistrellus hesperus* also were captured in the same net and were released.

Gould Wash drains into the Virgin River 14 km northwest of the netting site. Vegetation in the wash includes *Tamarix* and *Salix*, and that on the adjacent upland is comprised primarily of blackbrush (*Coleogyne ramosissima*), and infrequent pinon pine (*Pinus edulis*) and juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*). Grass cover is predominantly *Bromus* and *Hilaria*. Average elevation for the area is 1,250 m with annual precipitation less than 200 mm. The Hurricane Cliffs are located 5 km west of the collection area and descend over 500 m to Warner Valley, which is covered with creosotebush (*Larrea tridentata*), blackbrush, and snakeweed (*Gutierrezia microcephala*). The surrounding region consists of numerous steep rises and mesas, canyons, and cliffs.

I thank Geoff Baillie for assistance with netting activities. David Armstrong provided helpful comments in reviewing this paper. This study was financed by the Nevada Power Company.

LITERATURE CITED

- ARMSTRONG, D. A. 1974. Second record of the Mexican big-eared bat in Utah. *Southwestern Nat.* 19(1):114-115.
- BLACK, H. L. 1970. Occurrence of the Mexican big-eared bat in Utah. *J. Mammal.* 15(1): 190.
- GENOWAYS, H. H., AND J. K. JONES, JR. 1967. Notes on distribution and variation in the Mexican big-eared bat, *Plecotus phyllotis*. *Southwestern Nat.* 12:477-480.

¹School of Forestry & Conservation, University of California, Berkeley, Ca. 94702.