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Current records of the Mexican long-tongued bat, *Choeronycteris mexicana*, in Baja California, Mexico

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CURRENT RECORDS OF THE MEXICAN LONG-TONGUED BAT, *CHOERONYCTERIS MEXICANA*, IN BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO

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Key words: Long-tongued bat, Baja California, Mexico, records.

The long-tongued bat (*Choeronycteris mexicana*) is a nectar-eating species that inhabits southern California, southern Arizona, southwestern New Mexico, northern and central Mexico including Baja California and the Tres Mariás Islands, El Salvador, and Honduras (Hall 1981, Cryan and Bogan 2003). The usual altitudinal range is from about 300 m to 2400 m (Arroyo-Cabrales et al. 1987). This species is found in a wide variety of habitats ranging from arid thorn scrub (Axtell 1962, Baker and Greer 1962, Baker and Womochel 1966, Matson et al. 1978) to tropical deciduous forest (Davis and Russell 1954) and mixed oak-conifer forest (Matson and Patten 1975, Arroyo-Cabrales et al. 1987). In 1947 Huey collected 4 specimens (2 females and 2 males) from Rancho la Ramona, 8 mi N of Santa Catarina (San Diego Natural History Museum [SDNMH]), and 4 specimens (2 females and 2 males) in the Aguajito, Turquesa Mine (SDNHM). All these records were reported by Huey (1963). In 1961 Parrish and Banks collected 2 specimens (1 female and 1 male) in Turquesa Mine, E of El Rosario (SDNHM). In 1947 Villa-R reported 2 bats 5.5 mi E of Aguajito (California Academy of Science [CAS]) and 3 specimens in Desengaño mine, 14 mi NNE of Punta Prieta (CAS). And in 1969 Bostic collected 3 specimens (2 females and 1 male) 1.7 mi SW of Santa Catarina (SDNHM). California records have largely been from urban habitats in San Diego (Olson 1947).

We provide new information on recent records of *C. mexicana* at 3 localities in Baja California (Table 1); these specimens will be deposited in the Collection of Vertebrates (Mammals), Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad

Autónoma de Baja California (UABC), Ensenada, México. Recent records of *C. mexicana* in Baja California are (1) an adult female (UABC-219) captured 3 October 2003 in an olive acreage at the Cañón de Doña Petra, 2.3 mi NE of Ensenada city (31°53'00"N, 116°20'00"W), by E. Hernández-del Angel, F. Casillas-Figueroa, N. Briones-Escobedo, and R. Couoh-de la Garza; (2) an adult female (UABC-211) and skull (UABC-220) collected 17 December 2003 in the Sauzalito mine near El Rosario, 0.3 mi NE of Arenoso (30°05'00"N, 115°22'00"W), by E. Flores-Rojas, N. Briones-Escobedo, R. Couoh-de la Garza, and R. Martínez-Gallardo; (3) 7 specimens captured 17 December 2003 in the abandoned Cajoncito gold mine, 1.4 mi NNW of El Arenoso (30°07'00"N, 115°21'00"W), by E. Flores-Rojas, N. Briones-Escobedo, R. Couoh-de la Garza, and R. Martínez-Gallardo.

These recent records of *C. mexicana* indicate the northernmost presence of this species in Baja California, México (Fig. 1). This survey established a body of information that will be useful to future population monitoring efforts. Considering their ecological importance and susceptibility to population decline, bat populations should be effectively monitored (O'Shea and Bogan 2000). Because of the limited number of roost sites involved in this study, we recommend that these areas be surveyed every 2–3 years and protected from disturbance. Further research into the habitat needs, food habits, pollination role, survivorship, and distribution of *C. mexicana* would enhance our understanding of these potentially important migratory pollinators.

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TABLE 1. Body and cranial measurements (mm) of recent specimens of *Choeronycteris mexicana* from 5 localities in Baja California, México.

Catalog Number	Weight (g)	Total Length (mm)	Sex	Forearm (mm)	Cranial measures (mm)			
					Condylobasal length	Zygomatic breadth	Maxillary tooth-row	Interorbital breadth
211	15.7	51.2	F	43.4	29.3	9.5	12.2	3.6
212	16.0	53.3	F	46.4	29.8	9.7	11.5	3.9
213	16.14	47.5	F	45	29.1	9.5	13.1	3.6
214	16.68	50.2	F	44.3	29.8	9.0	13.5	3.8
215	14.7	48.4	F	43.5	28.9	9.3	13.1	3.6
216	14.33	47.8	F	43	29.0	9.4	13.1	3.9
217	15.0	52.4	F	44.4	29.8	9.1	13.4	3.8
218	15.5	51.5	F	45.3	29.2	9.9	14.1	3.9
219	12.71	80.8	F	42.5	29.2	9.4	13.7	4.0
220	—	—	—	—	25.8	8.8	10.4	3.8

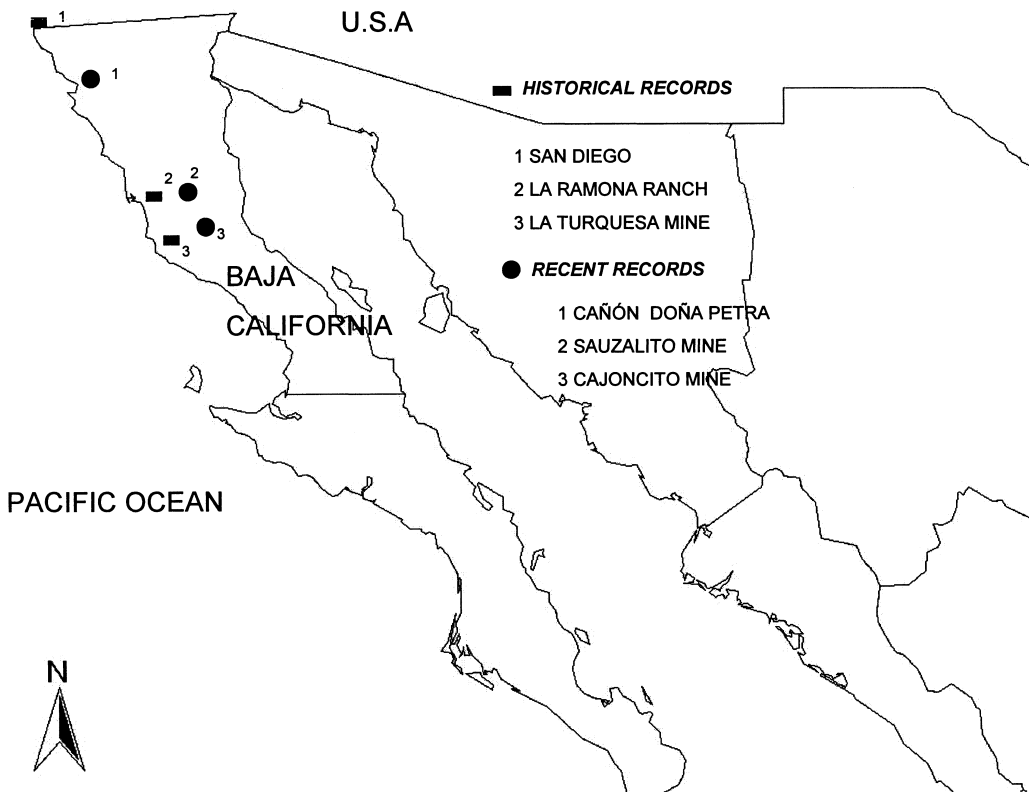


Fig. 1. Historical and recent records of *Choeronycteris mexicana* in Baja California, México. The map shows the area between 26°–34°N latitude and 112°–117°W longitude.

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