

FIRST RECORD OF *PEROMYSCUS GYMNOTIS* (MURIDAE)
FROM EL SALVADOR, WITH SECOND RECORDS FOR
CHOERONISCUS GODMANI AND
DIAEMUS YOUNGI (PHYLLOSTOMIDAE)

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Recent field studies in El Salvador by one of us (Owen) resulted in a collection of small mammals that has been deposited in The Museum of Texas Tech University. Three species in the collection document noteworthy records, one the first report of the peromyscine rodent *Peromyscus gymnotis* from the country, and the others the second Salvadorian records for *Choeroniscus godmani* and *Diaemus youngi*, bats of the American family Phyllostomidae.

Peromyscus gymnotis Thomas, 1894.—This species originally was named and described on the basis of material from Guatemala. Osgood (1909) arranged *gymnotis* as a subspecies of *P. mexicanus*. Later, Hooper (1968) expressed doubt that *gymnotis* was conspecific with *mexicanus* but did not formally change the nomenclature. Musser (1971), however, elevated *gymnotis* to species rank, listing the Chiapian *allophylus* (Osgood, 1904) as a synonym. These decisions were accepted by Huckaby (1980) and Carleton (1989). *P. gymnotis* is one of the smaller members of the *mexicanus* species group.

Huckaby (1980) and Hall (1981) published records of *gymnotis* from southeastern Chiapas and from localities in southwestern Guatemala. Elevations cited by these authors ranged from 65 feet at Astillero, Departamento de Escuintla, Guatemala, to 5500 feet at Finca Helvetia, Departamento de Quezaltenango, Guatemala. Jones and Yates (1983) reported *gymnotis* from 12 localities along the length of western Nicaragua, almost to the Costa Rican border. Elevations for their Nicaraguan material ranged from 35 to 1000 meters. On the basis of known locality and habitat data, Jones and Yates (1983) suggested that the geographic distribution of *gymnotis* also includes El Salvador, southern Honduras, and northwestern Costa Rica. Carleton (1989) cautioned that specimens of *gymnotis* may be found in samples previously thought to represent *mexicanus* from the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and from El Salvador.

During the period from October 1989 to February 1990, 21 *P. gymnotis* (12 males and nine females), the first to be reported from El Salvador, were collected at a finca about 3-6 mi. NW San Luis Talpa, Departamento de La Paz, near the Pacific coast and at an elevation of about 50 meters. Specimens were taken in second growth tropical vegetation consisting of scattered trees and brush.

Where the distributions of *gymnotis* and *mexicanus* approach each other in Nicaragua, Jones and Yates (1983) observed that the latter is found at higher, inland localities. These authors also noted that the two species are not known to occur sympatrically in Nicaragua (or elsewhere), which also appears to be true in El Salvador.

On 28 December 1988, 29 specimens of *P. mexicanus* were trapped on Volcán de Santa Ana, Departamento de Santa Ana, El Salvador. This locality, at approximately 1800 meters elevation, is about 72 kilometers from San Luis Talpa. All *Peromyscus* taken at this higher, inland site were *mexicanus*, whereas all *Peromyscus* obtained at the coastal lowland site near San Luis Talpa were *gymnotis*.

Our data for *gymnotis* and *mexicanus* in El Salvador thus are consistent with the pattern described for the species by Jones and Yates (1983) in Nicaragua and by Huckaby (1980) in Chiapas. *Peromyscus gymnotis* appears to be endemic to the coastal Pacific lowlands and

adjacent areas of intermediate elevation. It is replaced by *mexicanus* at higher, usually more inland localities.

Choeroniscus godmani (Thomas, 1903).—Previously, this bat was known from El Salvador by two specimens reported from Volcán de San Miguel, Departamento de San Miguel (Burt and Stirton, 1961). Although Burt and Stirton did not cite elevational data, the fact that their specimens were taken on a volcano suggests that they came from a moderately high locality (the elevation of Volcán de San Miguel is 2153 meters). On 31 January 1990, Owen netted a specimen of *C. godmani* at La Hacienda Escuintla, Departamento de La Paz. This record extends the known range of *C. godmani* in El Salvador into the tropical lowlands.

Diaemus youngi (Jentink, 1893). Greenbaum and Jones (1978) reported the first record of this vampire for El Salvador from 3 mi. NW La Herradura, Departamento de La Paz. On 27 May 1989, Owen netted a specimen at a nearby site, about 1 mi. N La Herradura. It was taken in the front yard of a campesino's hut near a tree where chickens sometimes roost at night. The campesino reported that his chickens sometimes had signs of bleeding from the legs and feet in the morning, possibly indicating they had been preyed upon by *D. youngi* inasmuch as this species has been observed to bite the legs and tarsi of chickens (Sazima and Uieda, 1980). Many nights of bat netting in similar habitat, but far removed from chicken roosts, failed to yield a single specimen of this vampire. The specimen reported by Greenbaum and Jones (1978) was obtained 14 years earlier than the one reported here. These data suggest that *D. youngi* maintains a rare but constant presence in the lowland tropics of El Salvador, with localized distribution related to the presence of suitable avian prey.

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