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Description of a new broad-nosed bat from Colombia

Michael S. Alberico & Eduardo Velasco

Two biological species are represented among specimens from western Colombia traditionally assigned to *Vampyrops dorsalis* Thomas [now *Platyrrhinus*¹ *dorsalis* (Thomas)], with a previously undescribed species inhabiting the lowlands between the Western Cordillera of the Andes and the Pacific coast. A description of the new taxon was accepted (verbally) for publication in 1989 and biogeographical evidence was presented in the same year at the International Symposium on Vertebrate Biogeography and Systematics in the Tropics (Alberico 1990). Since that time paratypes of the new bat were distributed among several European and American museums. As unfortunate circumstances have caused an incalculable delay of the original publication, and as two nomina nuda have already been produced, we decided to definitely name the new taxon in this preliminary note. For a complete description we refer to Alberico & Velasco (in press).

¹ This genus has been known as *Vampyrops* since 1865, when Peters named it as a subgenus of *Artibeus* Leach. Recently, Gardner & Ferrell (1990) argued in favor of the validity of *Platyrrhinus* Saussure, adding evidence to the statements of Hall (1981) that this name is not preoccupied by *Platyrhinus* Schellenberg (a beetle). While this evidence is interesting, we find it to be not sufficiently convincing to oblige a change in current nomenclature. In the interest of stability we would prefer to accept *Vampyrops*; but are forced to side with these authors, although on different grounds. Apparently, Peters found *Platyrrhinus* to be untenable for including three markedly different species and not merely because of his mistaken opinion about it being an emendation of *Platyrhinus*. He did not propose *Vampyrops* as a replacement name for *Platyrrhinus* as affirmed by Ferrell & Wilson (1991). Instead, he proceeded to name genera for each of the three forms included by Saussure: *Vampyrops* in 1865, for *Phyllostoma lineatum* Geoffroy; *Histiops* in 1869, for *Phyllostoma undatus* Gervais; and *Peltorhinus* in 1876, for *Phyllostoma jamaicensis* Gervais. Thomas (1900) accepted Peters' conclusions and designated *Phyllostoma lineatum* Geoffroy as the type species of *Vampyrops* Peters. His action did not necessarily fix it also as the type species of *Platyrrhinus*, as stated by Ferrell & Wilson (1991) and considered obvious by Gardner & Ferrell (1990). This was not done until Hall & Kelson (1959) designated it as such. This choice was unfortunate, because choosing either of the other two species included by Saussure in his description of *Platyrrhinus* would have made this generic name unavailable for the group of bats considered distinct by Peters (1865), and would have avoided an unnecessary change in usage, nearly universal since that time. Because of Hall & Kelson's designation, we are now obliged to accept *Vampyrops* as a synonym of *Platyrrhinus* and not the converse as utilized by Corbet & Hill (1991).

For the new species we propose the name

Platyrrhinus chocoensis, Alberico & Velasco sp. n.

Vampyrops chocoensis Ziegler, 1989: 319 (nomen nudum).

Vampyrops chocoensis Alberico & Velasco in Alberico, 1990: 348 (nomen nudum).

Holotype: Adult male (testes 6 mm), Universidad del Valle, Cali, UV 3817, skin and skull, collected 16 April 1984 by M. S. Alberico, field number MSA 1316.

Type locality: Quebrada El Platintero, 12 km W Istmina (by road), 5°00' N, 76°45' W, 100 m, Departamento del Chocó, Colombia.

Paratypes: 29 skins and skulls from the same region, some of which have been deposited in the museums of Berlin (ZMB 84830), Bonn (ZFMK 89.250), Chicago (2 paratypes), Paris (MNHN 1989-1), and Stuttgart (SMNS 41706).

Diagnosis: Medium in size (all measurements in mm) for the genus (forearm 46.7 to 51.4; greatest skull length 25.7 to 28.8). Dorsal coloration dull, dark brown with an indistinct off-color white mid-dorsal stripe extending from interscapular region or nape to rump; four facial stripes, medial pair light brown and well defined, lateral pair indistinct; venter somewhat lighter than dorsum, with grayish hairs extending onto adjacent wing membranes near forearm to a point more than half the distance from elbow to wrist; basal half of dorsal surface of forearm well furred and hairs of same dull brown as on back; distal half of forearm with scattered hairs; conspicuous short brown hairs extending from first metacarpal to base of second; free border of narrow interfemoral membrane with distinct fringe of short pale-brown hairs, longer (2 mm) and denser medially, shorter (0.5 mm) and less dense near calcar. Dry wing membranes, ears, noseleaf, and feet dark brown. Skull with zygomata flaring slightly posteriorly; borders of interorbital region nearly parallel when seen from above, without prominent constriction; rostrum widening anteriorly from orbits, frontal step resulting in a slightly dished facial profile; medial upper incisors relatively short and broad (length/width of anterior face of the enamelled occlusal surface <1.75); second lower molar usually lacking small accessory cuspule between protoconid and metaconid; third upper molar small (<1.2 mm in labiolingual width).

Comparisons: *Platyrrhinus chocoensis* is easily distinguished from the much smaller and lighter-colored *P. helleri* (Peters) and from both *P. vittatus* (Peters) and an undescribed member of the *P. infuscus* (Peters) species group, which are larger, darker, and with a much more distinct white dorsal stripe in western Colombia. Based on size alone, *P. chocoensis* cannot be distinguished from *P. dorsalis* (Thomas). This new species can, however, be reliably separated from *P. dorsalis* by some marked differences in dental characters: medial upper incisor relatively broad and short (*P. dorsalis*, length/width of anterior face of enamelled occlusive surface >1.75); M_2 usually lacking anterior accessory cuspule between protoconid and metaconid; M^3 smaller (*P. dorsalis*, usually >1.2 mm wide, 35 of 41 specimens, but as small as 0.9 mm in anomalous conditions, such as when M^3 is stunted as a result of eruption beneath the posterior border of the M^2 crown). *P. chocoensis* also tends to be duller in dorsal coloration and with a less distinct dorsal stripe than *P. dorsalis*, which is a richer and slightly darker brown and has a conspicuous white stripe.

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