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A NEW SPECIES OF FRUIT-EATING BAT (GENUS
ARTIBEUS) FROM CENTRAL AMERICA*

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During the course of field work in Nicaragua and Honduras in 1962 and 1963, field parties from the Department of Wildlife Management collected several specimens of *Artibeus* that cannot be assigned to any recognized species. Externally they resemble *Artibeus hirsutus*, but they are smaller. They are larger than any member of the "*cinereus*" complex, and they all possess a minute third upper molar which the latter group lacks. Thus, they appear to be the smallest of the "*jamaicensis*" group which normally has three upper molars. For this seemingly new species we propose the name

Artibeus inopinatus, new species

Type: Adult female, skin and skull; No. 9517, Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collections; Choluteca, 10 ft, Depto. de Choluteca, Honduras; collected 1 August 1963, by Jerome V. Mankins, original No. 4576.

Diagnosis: A medium-sized *Artibeus* seemingly most closely allied to *Artibeus hirsutus* of western Mexico, but smaller and with the interfemoral membrane less hairy, although with a noticeable fringe of hairs on its free edge. Forearm 51 to 53 mm in females; 48 to 49 in males; greatest length of skull 15.4 to 16.3 mm; weight 26 to 36 grams.

Comparisons: Considerably smaller than *Artibeus jamaicensis* and *A. lituratus*; needs comparison only with *A. hirsutus* which *inopinatus* resembles in external appearance. From *hirsutus*, *inopinatus* differs in being smaller in most external and cranial measurements; the cheek teeth are smaller (see Fig. 1 and Table 1). All specimens of *Hirsutus* examined by us have a broad spine on the posterior border of the palate that projects into the interpterygoid space. No spine is present in *inopinatus*, and the posterior outline of the palate is evenly concave.

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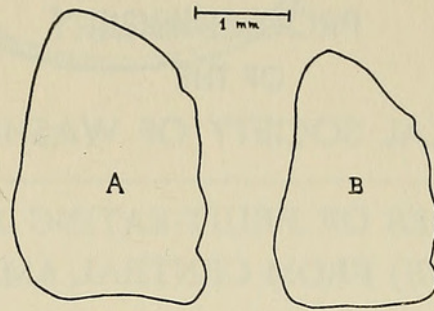


FIG. 1. Outline drawings, occlusal view, of lower left M_1 . A, *Artibeus hirsutus* (TCWC No. 4643 ♀); B, *Artibeus inopinatus* (TCWC No. 9521 ♀).

Measurements: See Table 1.

Remarks: A single adult male of this species was captured 26 November 1962, in Nicaragua by one of us (Davis) in a mist net set across the mouth of a small tributary that flows into a larger stream at a settlement locally known as San Francisco, 400 ft, at K92 on the Rama Road. At the time it was recognized as being different from *A. jamaicensis* and *A. lituratus*, both of which were being captured in the same net. Although no additional specimens were captured by Davis, nor by Carter and his crew, who collected in Nicaragua throughout the month of May

TABLE 1.—Selected measurements, extremes and means, in millimeters of three species of *Artibeus*

	<i>inopinatus</i> 8 ♀♀	<i>hirsutus</i> 6 ♀♀	<i>jamaicensis</i> 8 ♀♀ (from C. A.)
Forearm (inc. wrist)	52.0 (51.7–52.3)	55.7 (52.0–58.4)	59.3 (55.0–64.6)
Metacarpal III	46.4 (45.6–47.0)	50.3 (47.6–52.0)	53.8 (51.0–58.5)
Phalanx 1	14.8 (14.1–15.4)	15.4 (14.5–16.0)	17.5 (16.4–19.0)
Phalanx 2	24.0 (23.0–24.7)	26.8 (25.5–28.5)	27.9 (26.2–30.0)
Phalanx 3 (exc. cart. tip)	12.6 (12.3–13.5)	13.6 (12.8–15.3)	15.6 (15.0–17.1)
Tibia	17.1 (17.0–17.3)	18.6 (18.4–19.2)	21.5 (21.0–23.1)
Weight (gms)	29.3 (24.7–35.9)	39.6 (32.0–47.2)	47.1 (39.0–57.0)
Greatest length of skull to front of canines	25.5 (25.0–26.0)	26.7 (26.2–27.3)	28.0 (27.5–29.2)
Zygomatic breadth	15.7 (15.4–16.3)	16.7 (16.4–17.2)	17.2 (16.3–18.5)
Mastoidal breadth	13.6 (13.3–14.0)	14.3 (14.0–14.6)	14.9 (14.4–16.0)
Interorbital breadth	5.6 (5.5– 5.8)	6.7 (6.6– 6.8)	7.1 (6.7– 7.5)
Palatal length (from incisive foramen)	10.0 (9.6–10.4)	11.2 (10.8–11.6)	10.9 (10.3–11.3)
Postpalatal length	7.7 (7.2– 7.6)	7.5 (7.2– 7.8)	8.7 (8.5– 9.3)
Maxillary tooththrow	8.9 (8.8– 9.2)	9.9 (9.8–10.0)	10.0 (9.8–10.2)
Width across M^1 – M^1	10.8 (10.5–11.0)	11.7 (11.5–12.0)	12.7 (12.3–13.7)
Length of mandible	17.0 (16.6–17.5)	17.9 (17.8–18.4)	19.3 (18.6–20.3)
Length mandibular tooththrow (C– M_3)	9.7 (9.5–10.0)	10.6 (10.5–10.8)	10.9 (10.6–11.2)

1963 and were on the alert for it, Jerome Mankins, Gordon Jarrell and Jack Meyers were fortunate in finding a small colony roosting in a room in a relatively new, unoccupied house in Choluteca, Honduras, on 1 August 1963. They collected the entire group which consisted of one adult male, eight adult females and five young-of-the-year. Two of the young bats appear to be about one month old; the others are older, but still in juvenile pelage.

We wish to thank G. G. Goodwin, American Museum of Natural History, for comparing our specimens with the type of *Artibeus jamaicensis richardsoni*, Matagalpa, Nicaragua. He reported (*in litt.*) that "they need no close comparison with *A. j. richardsoni*." We also wish to thank Charles O. Handley, Jr., U. S. National Museum, who is revising the genus *Artibeus*, for his critical comments concerning the new species.

Although we have not examined them, the five specimens of "*Artibeus hirsutus*" reported from Divisadero, El Salvador, by Burt and Stirton (Misc. Publ. Mus. Zool. Univ. Michigan, 117: 35, 1961) are probably referable to *inopinatus*, since all their measurements are smaller than our *hirsutus* from Mexico and fall within the range of variation of *inopinatus*.



Davis, William B. and Carter, Dillford C. 1964. "A new species of fruit-eating bat (genus *Artibeus*) from Central America." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 77, 119–121.

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