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LASIURUS EGA AND OTHER SMALL MAMMAL RECORDS FROM DIMMIT AND LA SALLE COUNTIES, TEXAS

JOHN R. SUCHEKI, BRIAN R. AMMAN, DNATE' BAXTER, MARIA CAJIMAT, DARIN S. CARROLL, NEVIN D. DURISH,
CHARLES F. FULHORST, JOHN D. HANSON, MICHELLE L. HAYNIE, MARIKO KAGEYAMA, LISA K. LONGHOFER,
FRANCISCA MENDEZ-HARCLERODE, CIRO MILAZZO, JR., MARY L. MILAZZO, SERENA A. REEDER,
DONALD C. RUTHVEN, DAVID R. SYNATZSKE, AND ROBERT D. BRADLEY

Eight species of small mammals were collected from January 2001 to March 2003 at the Chaparral Wildlife Management Area, located in Dimmit and La Salle counties in South Texas. This locality is approximately 16 km east of Catarina, Texas on FM 133. The habitat at this site is described as a mesquite-mixed brush shrubland/savanna. Portions of the site routinely undergo habitat manipulation, by either mechanical treatments or prescribed burning. Bats were collected from over a shallow, man-made pond located in a mechanically cleared open field. The vegetation surrounding the pond includes mixed grasses and annuals with species of prickly-pear cactus (*Opuntia* sp.) and mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*)/acacia (*Acacia rigidula*) bordering the open field. Although most of these specimens simply represent the first reported occurrence for a particular county, the presence of *Lasiurus ega* at this site documents an especially important distribution record.

All specimens (TTU numbers) and associated frozen tissues (TK numbers) were deposited in the Collection of Recent Mammals in the Natural Science Research Laboratory, the Museum of Texas Tech University.

Southern Yellow Bat (*Lasiurus ega*)

The southern yellow bat, *Lasiurus ega*, occurs from the southern United States to Argentina. Collection records for Texas (Davis and Schmidly 1994) indicate that the distribution of *L. ega* is restricted to counties representative of the coastal region from Brownsville to Corpus Christi. On 16 March 2003, a female specimen of *L. ega* (TTU 98096; TK 112081) was collected in Dimmit County, Texas (UTM 14-458526E-3134302N). Other species collected at this locality included the Brazilian free-tailed bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) and the evening bat (*Nycticeius humeralis*).

This locality is at least 160 km northwest of previously reported localities for specimens collected along the Texas coast. Additionally, this record represents the northernmost locality for *L. ega*. It is not known if this specimen represents a migratory individual or whether a resident population exists in this area. It is possible that *L. ega* is expanding its range from northern Mexico into south-central Texas. Davis and Schmidly (1994) suggested that ornamental palms (*Sabal texana*) may offer roosting sites, and that *L. ega* may be expanding its range as a result of landscaping activities.

Cave Myotis
(*Myotis velifer*)

The distribution of the cave myotis, *Myotis velifer*, includes the western two-thirds of Texas. On 14 March 2001, one male specimen of *M. velifer* (TTU 98023; TK 98084) was collected in Dimmit County, Texas (UTM: 14-458526E-3134302N). Other bat species collected that night were the Brazilian free-tailed bat and the evening bat.

Nine-Banded Armadillo
(*Dasypus novemcinctus*)

The nine-banded armadillo, *Dasypus novemcinctus*, is known from most of Texas, excluding the Big Bend region. On 12 March 2002, a single adult male *D. novemcinctus* (TTU 86160, TK 98303) was collected in Dimmit County, Texas (UTM: 14-0456361E-3131951N). This individual was collected in a mesquite-acacia habitat with relatively few grasses on sandy loam soil. Other species collected from this area were *Neotoma micropus* and *Notiosorex crawfordi*.

Fulvous Harvest Mouse
(*Reithrodontomys fulvescens*)

The fulvous harvest mouse, *Reithrodontomys fulvescens*, occupies the eastern and southern part of the state of Texas and along the Texas-Mexico border into the Big Bend region. An adult female (TTU 98466; TK 98012) was collected in La Salle County, Texas (UTM: 14-454285E-3136441N) on 5 January 2001. Six additional adult specimens of *R. fulvescens* (TTU 98471, 98482, 98146, 98178, 98148, 98149; TK 98029, 98157, 98199, 98206, 98225, and 98226) have been collected during subsequent collecting trips. Other species that were collected in association with *R. fulvescens* were *Spermophilus mexicanus*, *Perognathus merriami*, *Chaetodipus hispidus*, *Dipodomys ordii*, *Peromyscus leucopus*, *Onychomys leucogaster*, *Sigmodon hispidus*, and *N. micropus*.

Coyote
(*Canis latrans*)

The coyote, *Canis latrans*, is known from most of Texas. On 13 March 2002, a single adult male (TTU 86172; TK 98338) was collected in Dimmit County, Texas (UTM: 14-465980E-3131609N). This specimen was collected in a densely vegetated area dominated by acacia-grassland and interspersed mesquite trees.

Common Gray Fox
(*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*)

The gray fox, *Urocyon cinereoargenteus*, occurs throughout most of Texas. On 25 November 2002, a female (TTU 98002; TK 98474) was collected on FM 133, 3 mi W. of the Chaparral Wildlife Management Area Dimmit County, Texas (UTM: 14-454912E-3131488N).

Raccoon
(*Procyon lotor*)

The raccoon, *Procyon lotor*, has been reported from most portions of Texas, although availability of water may limit the local distribution and abundance of this carnivore. On 2 October 2002, two adult males (TTU 98098; TK 98402 and TTU 98099; TK 98403) were captured in Dimmit County, Texas (UTM: 14-0460009E-3131999N). Both individuals were captured in the same live-trap next to a trash dump. The surrounding vegetation was dominated by acacia, mesquite, and various cactus species.

Striped Skunk
(*Mephitis mephitis*)

The striped skunk, *Mephitis mephitis*, occurs throughout much of Texas. On 3 October 2002, a single male specimen (TTU 98101; TK 98426) was captured in Dimmit County, Texas (UTM: 14-0460009E-3131999N), in a live-trap at the same trash dump as the raccoons.

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Addresses of authors:

Addresses for John R. Suchecki, Brian R. Amman, B. Dnate' Baxter, Darin S. Carroll, Nevin D. Durish, John D. Hanson, Francisca Mendez-Harclerode, Michelle L. Haynie, Lisa K. Longhofer, Serena A. Reeder, and Robert D. Bradley:

*Department of Biological Sciences
Texas Tech University
Lubbock, TX 79409-3131
JRS e-mail: john.r.sucheck@ttu.edu
BRA e-mail: brian.r.ammann@ttu.edu
BDB e-mail: dnabaxter@yahoo.com
NDD e-mail: nev_dog@hotmail.com
JDH e-mail: jdh95i@yahoo.com
FMH e-mail: francisca.m.mendez-harclerode@ttu.edu
MLH e-mail: michelle.haynie@ttu.edu
LKL e-mail: brombe@hotmail.com
SAR e-mail: sereeder@ttu.edu
RDB e-mail: robert.bradley@ttu.edu*

Addresses for Mariko Kageyama and Robert D. Bradley:

*Museum of Texas Tech University
Box 43191
Lubbock, TX 79409-3191
MK e-mail: mariko.kageyama@ttu.edu
RDB e-mail: robert.bradley@ttu.edu*

Addresses for Maria Cajimat, Charles F. Fulhorst, and Mary L. Milazzo:

*Department of Pathology
University of Texas Medical Branch
Galveston, TX 77555-0609
MC e-mail: nbcajirm@utmb.edu
CFF e-mail: cfulhors@utmb.edu
MLM e-mail: mamilazz@utmb.edu*

Address for Ciro Milazzo, Jr.:

*917 Sir Francis Avenue
Capitola, CA 95010
CM e-mail: ciromilazzo@netzero.com*

Address for Donald C. Ruthven and David R. Synatzske:

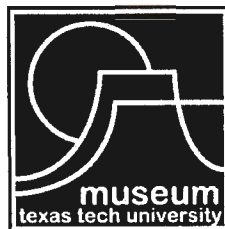
*Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Chaparral Wildlife Management Area
P.O. Box 115
Artesia Wells, TX 78001
DCR and DRS e-mail: cwma@granderiver.net*

Current Address for Darin S. Carroll:

*Special Pathogens Branch
Center for Disease Control
Atlanta, GA 30333
DSC e-mail: zuz4@cdc.gov*

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