

PROCEEDINGS

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BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW BAT FROM THE ISLAND OF DOMINICA.*

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Among some West Indian bats collected for the United States National Museum by Mr. H. Selwyn Branch are twenty-five specimens of a *Myotis* from Dominica which represent a species related to *M. nigricans* and *M. nesopolus*, but distinct from either. It may be known as:

***Myotis dominicensis* sp. nov.**

Type.—Adult male (in alcohol), No. 113,564, United States National Museum. Collected on the Island of Dominica, West Indies, July 20, 1901, by H. Selwyn Branch.

Characters.—Similar to *Myotis nigricans* from Brazil and Paraguay, but smaller; skull with faceline more abruptly elevated above level of rostrum.

Color.—After immersion in alcohol for sixteen months the fur is uniform prouts brown above, and slightly tinged with burnt umber below. the hairs of the back indistinctly blackish at extreme base, those of the underparts slaty black through proximal half. Everywhere a wash of broccoli brown is visible in certain lights. Ears dull brown; membranes blackish.

Skull and teeth.—The skull is distinctly smaller than that of *Myotis nigricans*, but in form the only tangible peculiarity appears to be the

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more abrupt angle at which the forehead rises above the level of the rostrum. The skulls are so small that this angle is difficult to measure, but it is approximately 18° in *M. nigricans* and 26° in *M. dominicensis*. The teeth of the Dominican animal are smaller than those of *Myotis nigricans*. The crowns of the upper molars are slightly broader relatively to their length, and the hypocone of the first and second is less developed. Small premolars both above and below less crowded than in the related species.

Measurements.—External measurements of type: total length, 63 (78)*; head and body, 36 (45); tail vertebrae, 27 (33); tibia, 12.4 (14); foot, 7 (7); forearm, 32.4 (33); first digit, 6.4 (6); second digit, 28 (30); third digit, 48 (56); fourth digit, 41 (45); fifth digit, 37 (40); ear from meatus, 11 (—); ear from crown, 8 (—); width of ear, 6 (—).

Cranial measurements of type: greatest length, 12.4 (13)*; basal length, 11.2 (12); basilar length, 9.4 (10); zygomatic breadth, 7.2 (7.4); inter-orbital constriction, 3 (3.6); mandible, 8.8 (9.4); maxillary toothrow (exclusive of incisors), 5 (5.4); mandibular toothrow (exclusive of incisors), 5 (5.4).

Specimens examined.—Twenty-five, all from the Island of Dominica.

Remarks.—In all external features except size *Myotis dominicensis* appears to agree perfectly with *M. nigricans*. The cranial and dental characters which separate the two species are very constant in an excellent series of specimens of each form. From the *Myotis nesopolus* of Curaçao the Dominican bat may be distinguished by its much more slender skull and smaller audital bullæ.

*Measurements in parenthesis are those of an adult male *Myotis nigricans* (No. 105,621) taken near Sapucay, Paraguay.