

# First record of the Egyptian Slit-faced Bat, *Nycteris thebaica*, from Jordan

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**Abstract:** The Egyptian Slit-faced Bat, *Nycteris thebaica*, was recorded for the first time from Jordan in 1999, in a barren mountainous area overlooking the Dead Sea.

**Kurzfassung:** Die Stirngrubenfledermaus, *Nycteris thebaica*, wurde 1999 erstmals für Jordanien in einem kargen Bergland, das das Tote Meer überragt, nachgewiesen.

**Key words:** *Nycteris thebaica*, bats, zoogeography, Jordan, Middle East.

## Introduction

The bats of Jordan have received extensive attention in recent times (ATALLAH 1977, DE BLASE 1972, QUMSIYEH 1980, QUMSIYEH et al. 1986, 1992, 1998, BATES & HARRISON 1989, DARWEESH et al. 1997), and a total of 25 species belonging to eight families is known from the country. However, previous studies have failed to report a number of suspected species owing their regional distribution range. These include the Egyptian Slit-faced Bat, *Nycteris thebaica*, E. Geoffroy Saint Hilaire, 1818, which is reported here for the first time from Jordan.

## The record

Two specimens (one male and one female) were collected with a butterfly net in Ar Raddass (31°43'22''N, 35°57'33''E) on 31 March, 1999. Ar Raddass is a barren mountainous area, located south of Wadi Al Mawjib, overlooking the Dead Sea, with many caves and crevices. The escarpment consists of soft Palaeozoic sandstones and Holocene marls that underwent extensive erosion from water and wind action. Cliffs, caves and crevices are very abundant, providing shelter for many bat species and other animals. Within the vicinity of Ar Raddass, the Royal Society for Conservation of Nature is holding a captive breeding programme for the Nubian Ibex, *Capra ibex nubiana*.

Five more species of bats were collected with mist nets during this survey within the vicinity of Ar Raddass: *Tadarida teniotis*, *Taphozous nudiventris*, *Otonycteris hemprichi*, *Rousettus aegyptiacus* and *Eptesicus bottae*.