

First record of the Naked-bellied Tomb Bat, *Taphozous nudiventris* Cretzschmar, 1830, from Jordan

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Abstract: The Naked-bellied Tomb Bat, *Taphozous nudiventris* Cretzschmar, 1830, was recorded for the first time in Jordan in April 1997.

Kurzfassung: Die Nacktbauch-Grabfledermaus, *Taphozous nudiventris* Cretzschmar, 1830, wurde im April 1997 erstmals in Jordanien nachgewiesen.

Key words: *Taphozous nudiventris*, faunistics, zoogeography, Jordan, Middle East, bats.

Introduction

In the last two decades, the Chiroptera fauna of Jordan and Palestine has been studied extensively (ATALLAH 1977, DE BLASE 1972, QUMSIYEH 1980, QUMSIYEH et al. 1986 & 1992, BATES & HARRISON 1989, and QUMSIYEH et al. in press). So far, 24 bat species have been recorded from Jordan. However, previous studies have failed to report a number of species including the Naked-bellied Tomb Bat (*Taphozous nudiventris* Cretzschmar, 1830). This report deals with the first record of this species in Jordan.

Materials

One specimen was collected with a mistnet near the Dead Sea (between South Shounah and Swymah) on 19.4.1997 at around 6 p.m. The site is close to irrigation pools located in agricultural fields for growing vegetables. Hills and piled stones are to the east, while the River Jordan is to the west of the site. *Pipistrellus kuhlii* was mistnetted along with *T. nudiventris*.

Measurements (in mm): Total length 114; tail length 28; hind foot: 15; forearm length: 74; ear length: 20; greatest length of skull: 26.3; condylobasal length: 21.5; zygomatic breadth: 16; breadth of braincase: 11.1; postorbital constriction: 5.0, maxillary tooththrow C-M³: 10.8, mandibular tooththrow C-M₃: 12.1; mandible length: 19.7.

The specimen has a distinctive turgus with a wide curved anterior and a rather wide base. Long hair projects from the back of toes. The lower back and abdomen are entirely naked.

Discussion

The Naked-bellied Tomb Bat is a rare species in Palestine. So far, it has only been collected from a few localities including the Sea of Galilee, Wadi Amud, N Haifa (HARRISON & BATES 1991), Jericho (ALLEN 1915) and Mount Quarantania (QUMSIYEH 1996). However,

T. nudiventris is quite common along the Tigris and the Euphrates in Iraq (AL-ROBAAE 1968).

Taphozous nudiventris roosts in deserted and old buildings as well as narrow crevices. Mating usually occurs during September and October, while hibernation extends from November to March (AL-ROBAAE 1968).

HARRISON (1977) stated that *T. nudiventris* travels long distances at night looking for prey. Large fat deposits in the abdominal regions, as in *Rhinopoma*, are present in *T. nudiventris* and seem to be a source of reserve nutrition for hibernation (QUMSIYEH 1996).

Other bats that may occur in Jordan but have not yet been recorded include *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, *Pipistrellus rueppellii*, *Nyctalus noctula*, *Eptesicus serotinus*, *Tadarida aegyptiaca* and *Barbastella barbastellus*.

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