

California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Interagency Wildlife Task Group

HOG-NOSED BAT

Choeronycteris mexicana

Family: PHYLLOSTOMIDAE
M020

Order: CHIROPTERA

Class: MAMMALIA

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DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE, AND SEASONALITY

The hog-nosed bat is known in California only from San Diego Co. and only as a summer resident (Arroyo-Cabrales 1999). California records largely have been in urban habitat in San Diego (Olson 1947). In New Mexico and Arizona, hog-nosed bats have been found from sea level to 2400 m (6000 ft), occupying desert and montane riparian, desert succulent shrub, desert scrub, and pinyon-juniper habitats.

SPECIFIC HABITAT REQUIREMENTS

Feeding: The hog-nosed bat primarily is a nectar feeder. The diet usually is about 75% nectar, 25% pollen. Fruits occasionally are eaten; insect use is rare. The flight of this species is slow and maneuverable. Hovers while feeding.

Cover: Uses caves, mines and buildings as day roosts, preferring dimly-lit sites (Arroyo-Cabrales et al. 1987).

Reproduction: Uses caves, mines, and probably buildings as nursery sites.

Water: Probably obtains sufficient water from food.

Pattern: In Mexico, New Mexico, and Arizona, occupies deep canyons of desert mountain ranges. Forages in desert and montane riparian, desert scrub, desert succulent shrub, and pinyon-juniper habitats.

SPECIES LIFE HISTORY

Activity Patterns: Peak activity occurs in the first 1 1/2 hr after sunset; then declines to a low level until 3 1/2 hr after sunset.

Seasonal Movements/Migration: Migrates to follow flowering of food plants, particularly agave and yucca. Winters in Mexico and northern Central America.

Home Range: No data found.

Territory: Long-tongued bats may be found as solitary individuals, or as groups of up to several dozen. Both sexes roost together.

Reproduction: Pregnant females have been found from February through September. Most births occur in June and early July. The single young is furred. Lactation usually occurs from June through August.

Niche: This species pollinates some plants such as agaves and columnar cacti. May share roosts with *Plecotus townsendii* and *Macrotus californicus*.

Comments: This species is wary and very sensitive to disturbance of roost sites. An invasion in 1946 provided most of the California records for hog-nosed bats (Olson 1947).

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