

Volunteer update
January 27, 2012

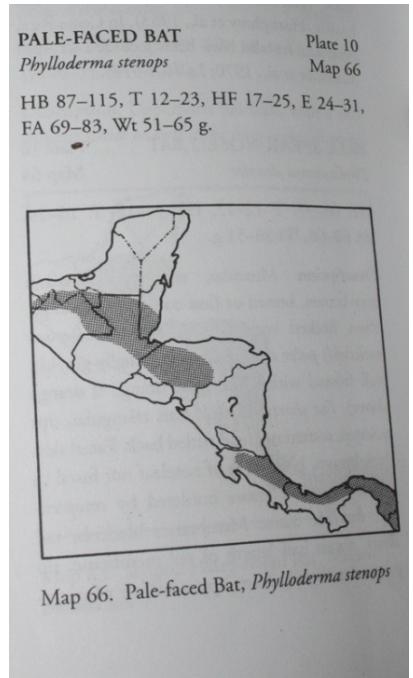
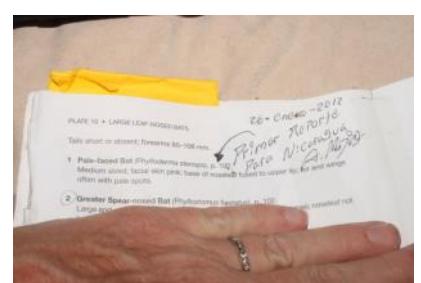
Dear Exceptional Bat People:

Hi All,
We have a

NEW SPECIES RECORD FOR NICARAGUA

Last night we captured 4 new species for the project and one, which I pulled out of a net along a forest trail, has never been captured in Nicaragua. This species has only been captured 5 times in Costa Rica. All captures have been on the Caribbean side; none in dry tropical forest. Ours was on the Pacific side of the country in the dry tropical forest (possibly a lake effect from Lake Nicaragua?).

The species is the pale-faced bat (*Phylloderma stenops*). We captured the female at 8:50 pm and got an Anabat recording when we released the bat. The bat weighed 71.5 g. I keyed her to species and then checked my identification with Arnulfo and when he saw the bat's white wing tips he was very excited and told me that this was a first record for this species in Nicaragua. The field guide we are using (The Mammals of Central American and Southeast Mexico) says 'patchily distributed through Central America (not recorded in Nicaragua)'.



Map 66. Pale-faced Bat, *Phylloderma stenops*

What a great night. The other new species were Godman's whiskered bat (*Choeroniscus godmani*; pictured bottom right), a small dark bat with a long slender nose and lots of long whiskers. The next new species was Heller's broad-nosed bat (*Platyrrhinus helleri*; bottom left, nice stripes). This was followed by the *Phylloderma stenops* (upper right) and ended with hairy big-eyed bat (*Chiroderma villosum*; top left). Nicaragua now has 100 species (counting *Artibeus intermedius* and *Artibeus literatus* as same species per Simmons 2005).

Who is 'we'? Our team was Arnulfo Medina, Christian Bonilla, Katie Day, Aimee Haskew, Angie McIntire, Miguel Melendez (who provided the site for trapping), and Lin Piest. We are all excited – our last night of netting is tonight and this ends our project with some great new information.

Elatedly yours,
Carol

