

Cyttarops alecto. By Andrew Starrett

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Cyttarops Thomas, 1913

Cyttarops Thomas, 1913:134. Type species *Cyttarops alecto* Thomas, 1913, by monotypy.

CONTEXT AND CONTENT. Order Chiroptera, Family Emballonuridae, Subfamily Diclidurinae. The genus *Cyttarops* is monotypic.

Cyttarops alecto Thomas, 1913

Cyttarops alecto Thomas, 1913:135. Type locality Mocajutuba, near Pará, Brazil.

CONTEXT AND CONTENT. Context noted in generic summary above. *Cyttarops alecto* is monotypic.

DIAGNOSIS. This diagnosis applies to genus and species. Pelage is long and silky, color dull smoky gray, almost black above and below, somewhat paler on upper back and shoulders. Membranes are black, uropatagium without specialized pockets or glands. Ultimate phalanx of thumb is free of propatagium. Tragus has nearly quadrate lobe on lower outer margin. Rhinarium is prominent, nostrils opening through short diverging tubes (Figure 1). Forearm is 45.8 to 47.2 mm long, greatest length of skull 12.6 to 14.3 mm, of maxillary tooththrow 5.3 to 5.6 mm; females are somewhat larger than males.

GENERAL CHARACTERS. A dark-colored emballonurid, similar in superficial appearance and size to *Saccopteryx* or *Peropteryx*, but diclidurine in detailed characters including long, silky fur, low rounded ears, expanded clavicles, grooved tibia, and cranial frontal cup. The combined characters of size and color, tragus shape, and absence of any modification of the propatagium and uropatagium distinguish this bat from all other emballonurids. More detailed descriptions were given in Thomas (1913) and Starrett and de la Torre (1964); photographs of a study skin and cranium may be seen in Walker *et al.*, (1968). The cranium, mandible, and tooththrow are illustrated in Figures 2-3.

DISTRIBUTION. The currently known range of this species (Figure 4), based on 13 specimens from four localities, extends from the Caribbean lowlands of Costa Rica through

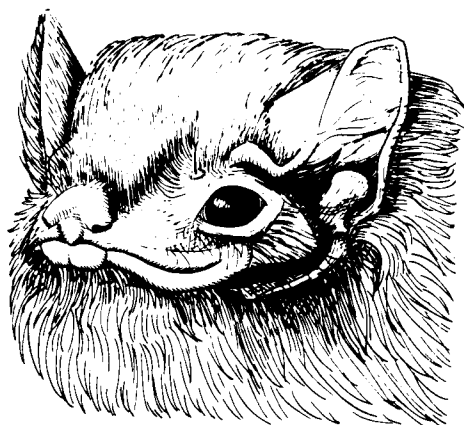


FIGURE 1. Head of *Cyttarops alecto* (drawn by Alice E. Boatright).

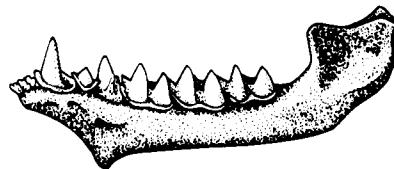
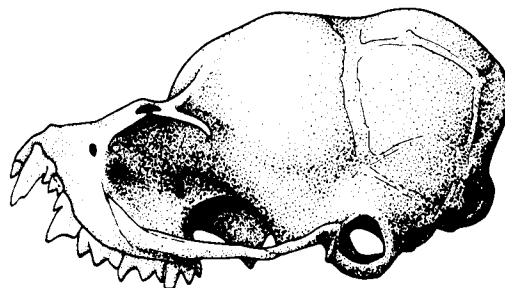
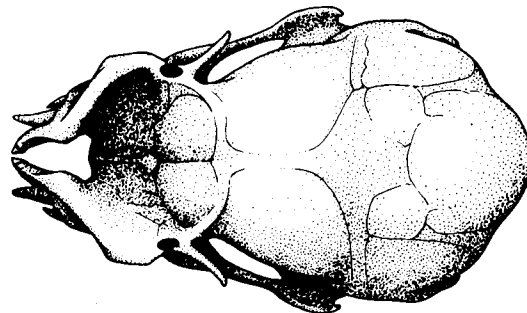


FIGURE 2. Dorsal and lateral views of skull and lateral view of left mandible of *Cyttarops alecto* (from Starrett and de la Torre, 1964).

Guyana to the state of Pará, Brasil (Starrett and Casebeer, 1968). All localities are at or below 300 m elevation.

REPRODUCTION. Two females and one male from Los Diamantes, Costa Rica, showed no macroscopic or microscopic evidence of reproductive activity in early August (Starrett and de la Torre, 1964). Three nearly full grown subadults were collected together with five adults in mid-August at Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí, Costa Rica (Starrett and Casebeer, 1968; month mistakenly recorded as September).

ECOLOGY. All of the Costa Rican specimens were collected during the day as they hung in small groups (1 to 4 individuals) under fronds of coco palms (Starrett and de la Torre, 1964; Starrett and Casebeer, 1968). Thomas (1913) stated only that the type specimen was "Caught in Garden." In Costa Rica, and apparently in Brasil, the day roosts were located in fairly exposed places near buildings actively occupied by humans. The specimens from Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí, Costa Rica, were taken from the same tree on three successive days, indicating lack of constancy in roosting sites from day to day. Roosting groups in Costa Rica contained mixed sexes

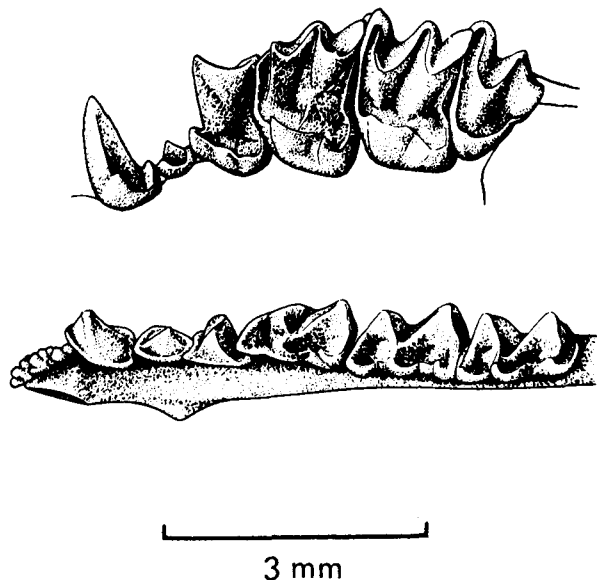


FIGURE 3. Occlusal views of upper left (incisor not shown) and lower right tooththrows of *Cyttarops alecto* (from Starrett and de la Torre, 1964).

and ages. All Costa Rican specimens were free of ectoparasites. Finely chewed insect remains were found in the digestive tracts of the specimens from Los Diamantes, Costa Rica. Data from Starrett and de la Torre (1964), Starrett and Casebeer (1968), collectors' field notes (USACR nos. 3301-3304, 3312-3314, and 3320), Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

REMARKS. An attempt to locate Mocajutuba, the type locality, more accurately led to the discovery of several localities with similar spellings in the region around Belém (= Pará). The most reasonable of these is Mucajatuba, located on the Pará map, American Geographical Society (1949), some 40 km east of Belém along the south bank of the Rio Guamá, just west of the tributary Ig. Guajará-acu. In the absence of concrete evidence to the contrary, it seems reasonable to restrict the type locality of *Cyttarops alecto* to

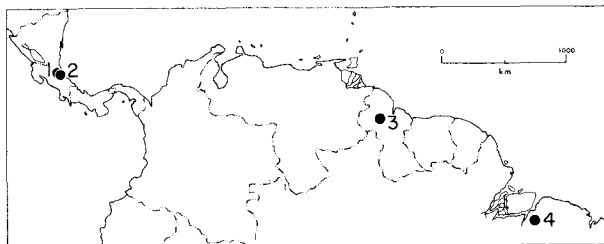


FIGURE 4. Records of occurrence of *Cyttarops alecto* in Central and South America. 1. Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí, Heredia, Costa Rica. 2. Los Diamantes, Limón, Costa Rica. 3. Mazaruni River, Guyana. 4. Mocajutuba, Pará, Brasil (type locality).

this particular town. All the possible localities were at elevations similar to that of Mucajatuba (less than 200 m) as here restricted.

The derivation of the scientific name of this genus and species is from the Greek *kyttaros*, honeycomb cell, *ops*, eye or face, and *alecto*, secret. Although Thomas makes no mention of the etymology of the name, it is possible that the reference is to the depression in the face (frontal cup) which is hidden by the long fur.

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Principal editor of this account was SYDNEY ANDERSON.

A. STARRETT, SAN FERNANDO VALLEY STATE COLLEGE, NORTH-RIDGE, CALIFORNIA 91324.