

Myotis planiceps. By John O. Matson

Published 21 November 1975 by The American Society of Mammalogists

***Myotis planiceps* Baker, 1955**
Flat-headed Myotis

Myotis planiceps Baker, 1955:165. Type locality, 7 mi. S, 4 mi. E Bella Unión, 7200 ft., Coahuila, México.

CONTEXT AND CONTENT. Order Chiroptera, Family Vespertilionidae, Subfamily Vespertilioninae. The genus *Myotis* includes approximately 80 species (Wilson and La Val, 1974). *Myotis planiceps* is monotypic.

DIAGNOSIS. A myotis with forearm small, 26.5 to 27.5 mm (Baker, 1955; Jimenez, 1968; and Matson and Patten, 1975), and cranium more flattened than in any other New World species of the genus (figures 1 and 2). Teeth are small relative to palatal surface, distance across third upper molars 4.9 mm, and distance between the molars at inner surface 2.5 mm (Baker, 1955).

GENERAL CHARACTERS. This is a small, dark-colored species of *Myotis*. The pelage is long (8 to 9.9 mm middorsally) and silky, dark basally and paler at tips. The skull is flattened and the rostrum narrows anteriorly. Occlusal surfaces of premolars are subequal in size and uncrowded.

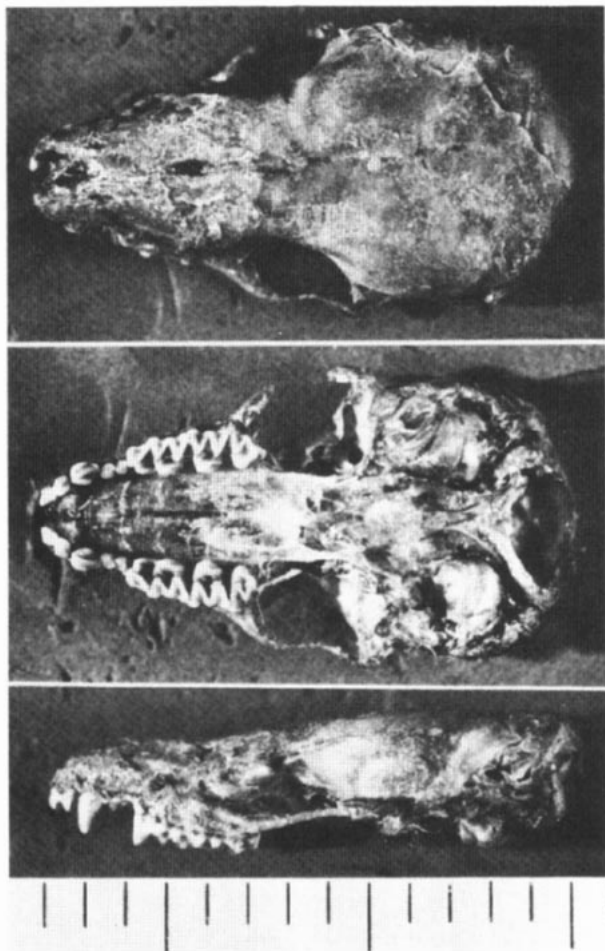


FIGURE 1. Dorsal, ventral, and lateral views of cranium of *Myotis planiceps* (LACM no. 34315, female, from Zacatecas, México). Scale is in millimeters. Photographs by Armando Solis.

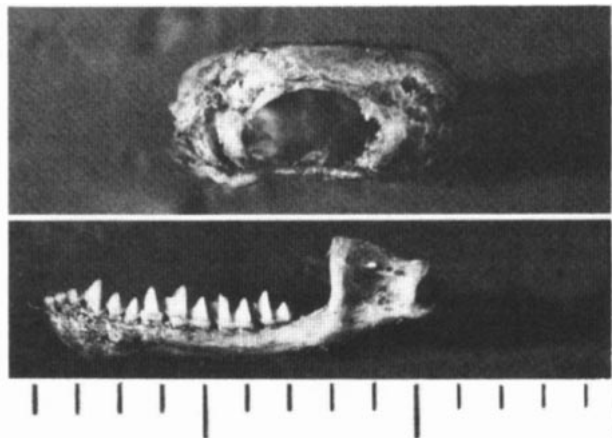


FIGURE 2. Posterior view of cranium (to show unusual flattening) and side view of mandible (same specimen as shown in figure 1). Scale in millimeters. Photographs by Armando Solis.

Selected external and cranial measurements of the three known specimens (from Baker, 1955; Jimenez, 1968; and Matson and Patten, 1975) are, respectively: total length, 76, —, —; length of tail, 25, —, —; length of hind foot, 8, —, —; length of ear, 10, —, —; length of forearm, 26.5, 27.5, 26.9; length of thumb, 3.8, —, —; length of third metacarpal, 24.3, 25.6, —; length of fifth metacarpal, 23.3, 25.0, —; con-

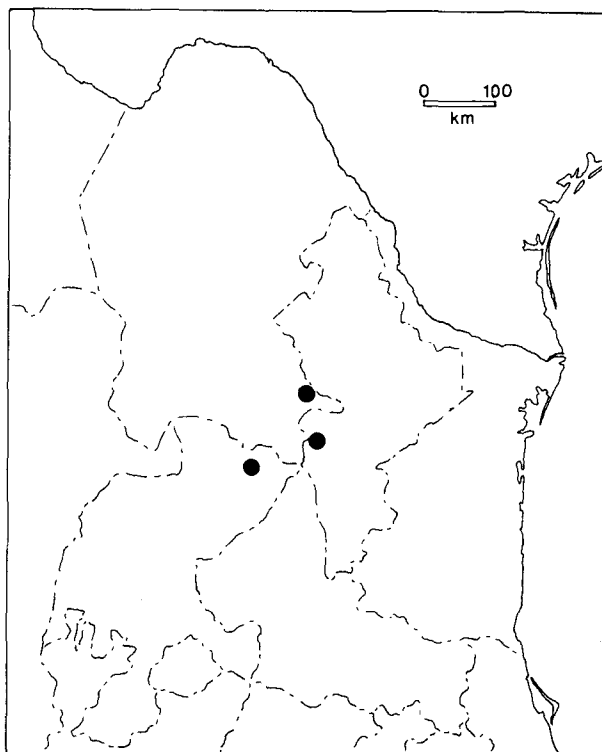


FIGURE 3. Map of northeastern México showing location of the three known records of occurrence of *Myotis planiceps*. See text for list of localities.

dylobasal length, 13.3, 14.1, —; greatest length of skull, —, 13.6; zygomatic breadth, 8.1, —, 7.9; postorbital constriction, 3.4, 3.3, 3.4; breadth of braincase, 7.1, 6.8, —; mastoid breadth, 7.2, 7.0, —; palatal length, 6.7, —, 6.3; maxillary breadth, 4.9, 4.7, —; length of maxillary toothrow, 4.9, 5.0, 4.7. The cranium and mandible are illustrated in figures 1 and 2.

DISTRIBUTION. The currently known range of *Myotis planiceps* (figure 3) is based upon three specimens from north-eastern México: 7 mi. S and 4 mi. E Bella Unión, Coahuila (type locality), 2190 m (7200 ft.); Cerro Potosí, Nuevo León, 2800 m; and 16 km SW Concepción del Oro, Zacatecas, 2300 m. All these places are in boreal montane forests.

ECOLOGY. Little is known about the ecology of *Myotis planiceps*. Baker (1955) thought the species might be confined to montane forests and the two later records (Jimenez, 1968, and Matson and Patten, 1975) support this judgment.

The flattened cranium may be an adaptation for living in crevices. The specimen from Cerro Potosí was captured from beneath the bark of a species of Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga* sp.).

Stomach contents of one specimen contained insects of the family Tachinidae, possibly Therevidae, and scales of some lepidopteran (Jimenez, 1968). No reproductive data for *Myotis planiceps* are known other than the report by Jimenez

(1968) that a male captured on 16 September 1966 had scrotal testes.

REMARKS. Jimenez (1968) believed *Myotis planiceps* to be a Nearctic species endemic to the Sierra Madre Oriental. The locality reported upon by Matson and Patten (1975) is out of the main mountain mass of the Sierra Madre Oriental. However, it is sufficiently close to be considered a part of that general region.

LITERATURE CITED

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