**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 Dicrophyllinae. The genus *Cyttarops* is monotypic.

**Cyttarops alecto** Thomas, 1913

*Cyttarops alecto* Thomas, 1913:135. Type locality Mocajutaba, 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, uronatagium without specialized pockets or glands. Ultimate phalanx of thumb is free of propatagium. Tragus has nearly quadrate lobe on lower outer margin. Rhinatag is prominent, nostrils open 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 toothrow 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 *Succopteryx* or *Periapteryx*, but dicrophylline 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 uronatagium 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., (1963). The cranium, mandible, and toothrow are illustrated in Figures 2-3.

**DISTRIBUTION.** The currently known range of this species (Figure 4), based on 15 specimens from four localities, extends from the Caribbean lowlands of Costa Rica through 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.

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**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).
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 Mocajatuba, 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 Guama, 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 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.

**LITERATURE CITED**


Principal editor of this account was **Sydney Anderson**.

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