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AN UPDATED LIST OF RABIES-INFECTED BATS IN NORTH AMERICA

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Abstract: Rabies infection has been reported in 30 of the 39 species of bat that live in North America north of Mexico.

INTRODUCTION

Table 1 constitutes an updated list of bat species known to live in North America north of Mexico, designating species reported positive for rabies virus infection. This list supplements a list (which included references) published in 1970⁴ with a report from Canada that adds an infected *Myotis keenii*,³ and it includes subsequent reports from California that add *Euderma maculatum*,^{5,7} *Myotis thysanodes*,⁵ *Lasiurus ega*,⁵ and *Eumops perotis*.⁵ This list utilizes

nomenclature selected in a recent faunal checklist.⁶

Thirty of the 39 species of bat considered residents of the continental United States and Canada have been reported infected. The nine species that have not been reported positive for the virus are rare or uncommon, and relatively few, if any, have been tested. Fortunately, the prevalence of infection in North American bats is very low, outbreaks either do not occur or must be rare, and unprovoked attacks are a rarity.⁴

TABLE 1. A checklist of North American bats north of Mexico, designating species reported positive for rabies virus infection.

Family	Genus and species*	Rabies-infected individual(s) reported
MORMOOPIDAE	<i>Mormoops megalophylla</i>	+
PHYLLOSTOMATIDAE	<i>Macrotus californicus</i>	+
	<i>Choeronycteris mexicana</i>	
	<i>Leptonycteris nivalis</i>	+**
	<i>Leptonycteris sanborni</i>	
VESPERTILIONIDAE	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	+
	<i>Myotis yumanensis</i>	+
	<i>Myotis austroriparius</i>	+
	<i>Myotis grisescens</i>	+
	<i>Myotis velifer</i>	+
	<i>Myotis keenii</i>	+**
	<i>Myotis evotis</i>	+
	<i>Myotis auriculus</i>	
	<i>Myotis thysanodes</i>	+
	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	
	<i>Myotis volans</i>	+
	<i>Myotis californicus</i>	+
	<i>Myotis leibii</i>	+

TABLE 1. (continued)

Family	Genus and species*	Rabies-infected individual(s) reported
MOLOSSIDAE	<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>	+
	<i>Pipistrellus hesperus</i>	+
	<i>Pipistrellus subflavus</i>	+
	<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	+
	<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>	+
	<i>Lasiurus seminolus</i>	+
	<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	+
	<i>Lasiurus intermedius</i>	+
	<i>Lasiurus ega</i>	+
	<i>Nycticeius humeralis</i>	+
	<i>Euderma maculatum</i>	+
	<i>Plecotus townsendii</i>	+
	<i>Plecotus rafinesquii</i>	
	<i>Idionycteris phyllotis</i>	
	<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	+
	<i>Tadarida brasiliensis</i>	+
	<i>Tadarida femorosacca</i>	
	<i>Tadarida macrotis</i>	+
	<i>Eumops perotis</i>	+
	<i>Eumops underwoodi</i>	
	<i>Eumops glaucinus</i>	

*Excludes three species, single individuals of which have been reported and may have been accidentally transported from more southerly, tropical areas: *Artibeus jamaicensis*, from Key West, Florida;¹ *Diphylla ecaudata*, from near Comstock, Texas;⁸ *Enchisthenes hartii*, from Tucson, Arizona.²

**Reported rabies-infected only in Mexico (*L. nivalis*) or Canada (*M. keenii*).

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