Antillean Ghost-faced Bat

*Mormoops blainvillei*

First Description: **(Leach, 1821). Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond., 13:77.**

Type Locality: **Jamaica**

Roosting / Nursery Habitat: **Obligate cave**

Diet: **Insects: moths (Lepidoptera); occas. flies (Diptera), spiders (Araneae)** <http:// www.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/enhanced/doi/10.1111/mec.12504/>(Emrich et al. 2013).

Ecosystem Services: **Insect pest control**

Acoustic Habitat: **Background semi-cluttered space; fluttering hunter**

Physical Characteristics (from Windsor Cave population):

*Forearm length*: **Female = 46.6 + 1.0 mm**

 **Male = 46.7 + 1.2 mm**

*Weight*: **Female = 9.2 + 0.8 grams**

 **Male = 9.9 + 1.2 grams**

Reproduction (Windsor): **Males – testes descended Sept-Oct; timing of oestrus and parturition remain unknown.**

(TEXT NOT IN TABLE)

**Additional:**

In our monitoring of the bat colony in Windsor Cave, we occasionally observed small ticks (Ixodida: Acarina) attached on the dorsum of individual *Mormoops.* This gives some insight into their flight or hunting behaviour, as clusters of ticks are most frequently encountered along the edges of trails or in pastures, less than two meters above the ground.

Although delicate in appearance, *Mormoops* has a remarkably swift flight and the vibration of their wings makes a distinctive humming “woosh” as they fly past (see also Goodwin 1970). You don’t need an acoustic bat detector to confirm *Mormoops*!

**RESEARCHER ALERT:** This species is extremely sensitive to being kept in cloth holding bags: the skin at the carpal bend can completely abrade, very quickly. Caution is needed when working with them.

Bubble fact: With an average flight speed of 9.0 + 2.0 meters per second, *Mormoops* can cover 100 meters in 11.1 seconds – not quite good enough to beat Usain Bolt.

**Literature Cited**

Emrich, M.A., E.L. Clare, W.O.C. Symondson, S.E. Koenig, and M.B. Fenton. 2013. Resource partitioning by insectivorous bats in Jamaica. <a href="http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/enhanced/doi/10.1111/mec.12504/"> Molecular Ecology 23: 3648-3656.</a>

Goodwin, R.E. 1970. The ecology of Jamaican bats. J. Mammology 51: 571-579.