

SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION

**First record of the ghost bat *Diclidurus scutatus* Peters (Mammalia, Chiroptera, Emballonuridae) in São Paulo City, Brazil**

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**ABSTRACT.** Because of their habits (fly high and harbor on palm leaves), there are few records of the ghost bat *Diclidurus scutatus* Peters, 1869. In Brazil, this species is known only from Northern region and this paper describes its first occurrence in Southeastern region. The ghost bat was found died on the window sill of a 9<sup>th</sup> floor apartment of a residential building in the urban area in the city of São Paulo, São Paulo State. Probably this bat must live at Serra da Cantareira, one of the Atlantic forest fragment nearby São Paulo city.

**KEY WORDS.** Insectivorous bat; urban area.

**RESUMO.** Primeiro relato do morcego-fantasma *Diclidurus scutatus* Peters (Mammalia, Chiroptera, Emballonuridae) na cidade de São Paulo, Brasil. Devido aos seus hábitos de voar alto e se abrigar em folhas de palmeiras, há poucos registros na literatura sobre o morcego *Diclidurus scutatus* Peters, 1869. No Brasil, essa espécie é conhecida somente na região Norte e o presente estudo descreve sua primeira ocorrência na região Sudeste. O morcego foi encontrado morto no parapeito da janela de um apartamento do nono andar, em um edifício residencial, na área urbana da cidade de São Paulo, estado de São Paulo. Provavelmente esse morcego devia viver na Serra da Cantareira, um fragmento da mata Atlântica, próximo da cidade de São Paulo. **PALAVRAS-CHAVE.** Área urbana; morcego insetívoro.

From 925 known species of Chiroptera (NOWAK 1994), only 47 species in 13 genus are members of the family Emballonuridae (KOOPMAN 1993). One of these genus is *Diclidurus* WIED (1820), which four neotropical species: *D. albus*, *D. scutatus*, *D. isabellus* and *D. ingens*. These species could be found from Mexico through Central America until South America (KOOPMAN 1993). There are few records of these species in Brazil and records are restricted to the States of Amazonas, Pará, Bahia and Espírito Santo (CUNHA-VIEIRA 1942, HUSSON 1962, VILLA-R. 1966, CEBALLOS & MEDELLIN 1987, NOWAK 1991, KOOPMAN 1993). With respect to *D. scutatus*, its presence was only recorded in Northern region of Brazil (CUNHA-VIEIRA 1942, KOOPMAN 1993, NOWAK 1994, EISENBERG & REDFORD 1999).

The present study describes the first occurrence of the ghost bat *Diclidurus scutatus* in the city of São Paulo (23°32'S, 46°37'W, 760 m high), São Paulo State, Southeastern Brazil. São Paulo is the biggest city of Latin America and one of five biggest metropolitan areas of the world (IBGE 2000). The city is almost completely urbanized with many buildings that offer

suitable conditions for several sinantropic species, including bats. The Centre of Zoonosis Control (CCZ), from the Health Secretary of São Paulo city, which frequently attend people on disturbance caused by bats. In April 24<sup>th</sup> 2004, the CCZ was called to take a died bat on the window sill of a 9<sup>th</sup> floor apartment (aprox. 30 m high) of a residential building on Mandaqui quarter, northern area of the city. This ghost bat, an adult male, was deposited at the Museu de Zoologia of the Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo State, Southeastern Brazil (MZUSP 32344).

The main measures of this *D. scutatus* from São Paulo city are: forearm length = 58.9 mm; head and body length = 62.7mm; skull total length = 15.5 mm; upper tooth-row length = 7.5 mm; lower tooth-row = 7.2; weight = 13 g. The fur of bat consists of long silky hairs of white color and the basal part of the hair is greyish brown (Fig. 1). The wing skin and legs are also white. As it is an adult male, the bat has two glandular pouches on interfemoral membrane (HUSSON 1962).

Because its rarity, with few individuals in the zoological collections, no information about its behavior and ecology



Figure 1. Individual adult male of the ghost bat, *Diclidurus scutatus*, found in the city of São Paulo, Southeastern Brazil. Photo: A.S. Martins.

could be found in literature. Probably this specimen of the ghost bat must live at Serra da Cantareira, one of the Atlantic forest fragment nearby São Paulo city, and it could forage high over urbanized areas.

The present note increases significantly the geographic distribution of *D. scutatus*, which was known in Brazil, only from northern region, where the ghost bat was described by Peters in 1869 (Type-locality: Belém, Pará).

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