

MINISTERIE VAN ONDERWIJS, KUNSTEN EN WETENSCHAPPEN

# ZOOLOGISCHE MEDEDELINGEN

UITGEGEVEN DOOR HET

RIJKSMUSEUM VAN NATUURLIJKE HISTORIE TE LEIDEN

DEEL XXXIII, No. 10

13 December 1954

---

## ON VAMPYRODES CARACCIOLAE (THOMAS) AND SOME OTHER BATS FROM THE ISLAND OF TOBAGO (BRITISH WEST INDIES)

by

**A. M. HUSSON**

(Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden)

---

The present paper is based on a collection of bats from Tobago brought together by Mr. G. F. Mees. From July 1953 to March 1954 Mr. Mees stayed at the island of Trinidad, making occasional short visits to Tobago. Though his main attention was directed to the avifauna of these islands, he collected also several specimens of bats, those from Tobago being of special interest. The larger part of this material has been obtained by shooting. After collecting the specimens were immediately placed in a refrigerator and were sent in a frozen condition to the Leiden Museum, where they finally were prepared. I want to express here my sincere gratitude to Mr. Mees for his willingness to devote part of the time spent by him in the West Indies to the collecting of bats, and for his information on these specimens. All the material mentioned here is now inserted in the collection of the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie at Leiden, the reg. no. being given under the species in question.

Notwithstanding the fact that the number of species as well as the number of specimens obtained by Mr. Mees at Tobago is small, in his material not less than three species occur which are not mentioned by Jones (1951, p. 224) in his paper on the Tobago bats, a paper which was based on Jones's own material and on the collection of Tobago bats in the British Museum (Natural History).

Only one of the nine species reported upon by Jones was also collected by Mr. Mees, viz., *Carollia perspicillata perspicillata* (L.): Grafton, N. W. Tobago, 13 February 1954, attic of a country house (one adult ♂, skin and

skull, reg. no. 12226; one juv. ♂ with milk dentition, skin and skull, reg. no. 12245; one ♀, skull only, reg. no. 12224).

As far as I can ascertain the other three species of Mr. Mees's collection have not been recorded from Tobago before. These three species are:

1 — *Glossophaga longirostris rostrata* (Miller): Auchenskeoch, S. W. Tobago, 9 February 1954 (one ♀, skin and damaged skull, reg. no. 12241); Grafton, N. W. Tobago, 13 February 1954, attic of a country house (five ♀ ♀: skins and skulls, reg. nos. 12239 and 12242; skulls only, reg. nos. 12227, 12228, and 12229).

2 — *Artibeus cinereus cinereus* (Gervais): Store Bay near Crown Point, W. Tobago, 28 October 1953, hanging in a banana tree in cultivated country near the shore (one ♂, skin and damaged skull, reg. no. 11996).

3 — *Vampyroides caracciolae* (Thomas): Pigeon Peak, N. E. Tobago, alt. 525 m, 14 February 1954 (four ♂ ♂: skins and skulls, reg. nos. 12367-12369; in alcohol, skull extracted, reg. no. 12370). The cluster of these four specimens was hanging in a spreadingly branched shrub in a virgin forest. A single specimen, presumably also belonging to this species, was seen hanging at a short distance from the cluster; it escaped, but its identity is practically certain.

*Vampyroides caracciolae* appears to be very rare. After the original record, which was based on one specimen from Trinidad (Thomas, 1889) only four more specimens have been reported: three more from Trinidad (Thomas, 1893b, p. 163; Sanborn, 1941, p. 478), and one from Utinga, Para, Brazil (Thomas, 1920, p. 274). The last mentioned record justifies the presumption that this pretty species occurs also in the intermediate regions, being overlooked there until now because of its rarity.

Measurements (in millimeters) of the four male specimens of *Vampyroides caracciolae* (Thomas) from Tobago.

Reg. no. Museum Leiden	12367	12368	12369	12370
Forearm	45	48	48	46
Third finger, metacarpal	45	46	47	47
first phalanx	17	17	16.5	17.5
second phalanx	25.5	26	26.5	27
tip	12	12.5	13	15
Fourth finger, metacarpal	44	45	45	45
first phalanx	13	15	14	14.5
second phalanx	16	16.5	17	18.5
Fifth finger, metacarpal	45.5	46	46	46.5
first phalanx	11	11	11.5	12
second phalanx	13	12.5	12.5	14.5
Tibia	—	—	17	17.5
Foot, without claw	11	—	12	10.5
Calcar	5	5	5	5

Ear from notch	11.5	12	12.5	14
Skull, greatest length	25.2	25.5	26.2	26.0
condylo-basal length	21.8	22.6	23.0	23.2
palatal length	12.8	13.2	13.3	13.2
basal length	18.7	20.0	20.5	20.8
interorbital width	5.8	6.4	6.2	6.1
zygomatic width	16.1	16.3	16.2	16.6
mastoid width	12.5	12.9	12.7	12.6
width of braincase	11.2	11.0	11.2	11.1
height of braincase, without crest	10.1	10.2	10.5	10.5
width across canines	5.9	6.4	6.5	6.4
width across molars	11.4	11.3	11.0	11.3
mandible length	16.2	17.1	17.0	17.1
mandible height	7.9	8.2	7.9	8.1
upper tooth row, c-m <sup>2</sup>	8.7	9.0	9.0	9.1
lower tooth row, c-m <sub>3</sub>	9.6	10.0	9.9	10.0

In establishing the correct spelling of the specific name of this species a number of curious difficulties is encountered. In the original description Thomas (1889, p. 167) gave it the name *Vampyroops Caracciolae* and stated that the type was collected by Mr. Caracciola. Nowhere in the original publication, however, does Thomas explicitly state that he named the species for Mr. Caracciola. In a later paper Thomas (1893a) pointed out that he was mistaken in citing the name of the discoverer of the above species as Caracciola, as this gentleman actually was named Caracciolo; accordingly Thomas changed the specific name of his *Vampyroops* to *Caraccioli*. Since that time both the name *caracciolae* and *caraccioli* have been used in the literature. The following decision pertaining to this and similar cases was taken during the XIVth International Congress of Zoology at Copenhagen (Hemming, 1953, p. 43): "Where there was only one Original Spelling, that is the *Valid Original Spelling*, provided that there is no clear evidence in the original publication that this spelling was based on an inadvertent error ...". Since in the original description no explicit statement as to the derivation of the name *V. Caracciolae* is given, there cannot be any evidence that the original spelling is incorrect. Authors who accept this point of view will continue to use the name *caracciolae* as this according to their opinion is the valid original spelling of the name. Other authors, however, may maintain that, though Thomas does not explicitly say so, it is evident from the original publication that the species was named for Mr. Caracciola, and that therefore the correct name for the species is not *caracciolae* but *caracciolai* (see Art. 14 of the Int. Rules Zool. Nom.). As in the original publication there is no evidence whatever that the collector's name was Caracciolo instead of Caracciola, Thomas's later (1893a, p. 186; 1893b, p. 163) emendation certainly is nomenclatorially invalid; moreover, according

to the Rules, Thomas, in emending the name, ought not have changed it to *caraccioli* but to *caraccioloi*.

Our conclusion is that there is not sufficient evidence in the original publication of *Vampyrops Caracciolae* to justify the automatic emendation of the specific name. Should, however, it be the feeling of zoologists that it is better to emend this name, then it has to be emended to *caraccioloi*. This emendation, however, cannot be effected automatically, but should be subjected to the approval of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature. As the name *caraccioloi* has never been employed by zoologists I do not see any use for that procedure, so that I have adopted here the nomenclatorially correct name *caracciolae*.

The specimens of *Vampyrodes caracciolae* from Tobago closely agree with the original description. However, it must be noted that, though Thomas (1889, p. 167) stated that "general colour is a uniform soft greyish brown both above and below", my specimens show a marked difference in the coloration of the dorsal and ventral parts. In the Tobago specimens the colour dorsally is about cinnamon-brown (Ridgway, pl. xv) with the exception of the pure white median line, which becomes broader between the shoulders (the broadening being especially distinct in specimen no. 12367, in which it has a width of 4 mm); the ventral parts are uniform greyish brown, being somewhat paler on the lower part of the throat and between the shoulders; the interfemoral is thinly margined with soft white hairs. In the frozen specimens (and therefore probably too in the flesh) the colour of the metacarpals and the phalanges was white, just like the naked parts of the forearms.

The dental and skull characters agree with those of the original description and with the figures given by Thomas (1889, p. 168, figs. 1-3). It must be noted, however, that the contour of the last upper molar of the Tobago specimens is not triangular, as figured by Thomas, but more trapezoid.

For the external measurements taken from dried skins (nos. 12367-12369) and from the alcoholic specimen (no. 12370) as well as for the measurements of the skulls I refer to the table. When these measurements are compared with those given for the species by Thomas (1889, p. 169; 1920, p. 274) and by Sanborn (1941, p. 383) it appears that the Tobago specimens are a little smaller.

## REFERENCES

- HEMMING, A. F., 1953. Copenhagen Decisions on Zoological Nomenclature. Additions to, and Modifications of, the Règles Internationales de la Nomenclature Zoologique

- approved and adopted by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, August, 1953, pp. i-xxix, 1-135, 2 pls.
- JONES, T. S., 1951. Bat records from the islands of Grenada and Tobago, British West Indies. *Journ. of Mammalogy*, vol. 32, pp. 223-224.
- RIDGWAY, R., 1912. Color standards and color nomenclature, pp. i-iii, 1-43, pls. i-lviii.
- SANBORN, C. C., 1941. Descriptions and records of Neotropical bats. *Field Museum Nat. Hist., Zoological Series*, vol. 27, pp. 371-387.
- THOMAS, O., 1889. Description of a new *Stenodermatous* bat from Trinidad. *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (6)*, vol. 4, pp. 167-170, 3 figs.
- , 1893a. Further notes on the genus *Chiroderma*. *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (6)*, vol. 11, pp. 186-187.
- , 1893b. A preliminary list of the Mammals of Trinidad. *Journ. Trinidad Field Nat. Club*, vol. 1, pp. 158-168.
- , 1920. On Mammals from the Lower Amazons in the Goeldi Museum, Para. *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (9)*, vol. 6, pp. 266-283.