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Burns, R.J.

TWIN VAMPIRE BATS BORN IN CAPTIVITY

A female common vampire bat (*Desmodus rotundus*), captured on 11 November 1968 in a cave near Zacazonapan, State of Mexico, Mexico, gave birth to twins on 28 January 1969. The bat was kept alone in a cage from the time of capture until giving birth. She was larger than other females in our colony and weighed 40.0 grams the day after parturition.

One young, apparently born dead or died soon after birth, appeared to be premature and was smaller than its sibling. It was not found until the day after birth and was dehydrated, so its weight at birth and sex could not be determined. The other young, a male, lived for about 2½ weeks. It also appeared to be premature in comparison with other young *Desmodus* born in our colony. It was small, hairless, and lacked ossification at the bone joints in the legs and wings. It weighed 3.0 grams and had a forearm measurement of 18 mm at birth, whereas three other young *Desmodus* born in our colony weighed 5.0, 5.5, and 6.0 grams and had forearm measurements of 21, 22, and 24 mm at birth. Also, a 7.0-gram fetus, with a forearm measurement of 23 mm, was found in a female captured on 2 January 1969 in a cave near Jonacatepec, Morelos, Mexico.

These measurements compare well with literature records of known-age *Desmodus*. Ruiz Martínez (Monogr. Rev. Protinal, Ediciones Protinal, Caracas, Venezuela, 1963) published a picture of a 5-day-old vampire that weighed 5.0 grams, and Crespo *et al.* (Rev. Mus. Argentino Cienc. Nat., 6:131-160, 1961) reported a newborn vampire with a forearm measurement of 27 mm.

To my knowledge, this is the first time twins have been reported for this species. Wimsatt and Trapido (Amer. J. Anat., 91:415-446, 1962) observed that *Desmodus* usually produces only one young per pregnancy, but that sometimes more than one ovum may be shed. Though it appears rare, twinning is now known to occur. What impact this may have on the dynamics of a *Desmodus* population is presently obscure.

This study was supported by the Agency for International Development, U. S. Department of State.—RICHARD J. BURNS, *Denver Wildlife Research Center, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Denver, Colorado 80225 (stationed at Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Pecuarias, Palo Alto, D. F., Mexico). Accepted 12 December 1969.*