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VAMPIRE BAT CONTROL PROGRAMS IN LATIN AMERICA

QUARTERLY NEWS REPORT

October 1974

By: G. Clay Mitchell

U.S. Agency for International Development

Denver Wildlife Research Center

QUARTERLY NEWS REPORT ON VAMPIRE BAT CONTROL  
PROGRAMS IN LATIN AMERICA

Argentina

Dr. Rexford D. Lord, Panamerican Zoonosis Center, reports excellent results when capturing and topically treating bats in northern Argentina.

Bolivia

The Interamerican Development Bank will possibly fund training seminars in Bolivia early next year. Two seminars are proposed--one in Trinidad and the other in Santa Cruz. If funds are available, Dr. Enrique Sanchez, field coordinator of the Nicaraguan campaign, will assist in the training.

Brazil

Richard J. Burns, DWRC, recently spent three weeks in Brazil evaluating their control programs. Dick and Dr. Rogério Serrao Piccinini worked in the states of Bahia, Alagoas, Pernambuco, Paraíba, Ceará, and Santa Catarina. A more detailed coverage of this trip will appear in the next report.

Guyana

The Ministry of Agriculture/Guyana, International Bank of Reconstruction and Development, and AID/Guyana jointly funded training in Guyana in October. Demonstrations were given near Georgetown for veterinarians and near Lethem for cattlemen.

The Ministry of Agriculture has begun a regional control program and funded a national campaign to begin January 1975. The campaign will probably begin in the Rupununi Region where vampire bat rabies is endemic.

### Nicaragua

Nicaragua is divided into 16 departments (= states). Thus far, personnel of the national campaign have controlled bats in 10 of the departments. Dr. Rodrigo Gonzalez, coordinator, reports the work is completed in Granada and Boaco and now work will intensify in other departments. In the period of April-August biting was reduced 88% on 38,003 heads of cattle after applying control methods. In total, 50,612 cattle have been examined but August follow-up data was not available at this time (see Table 1).

### Panama

The Ministry of Agriculture-Panama has requested assistance to evaluate their national campaign. They have just appropriated \$66,000.00 U.S. for their campaign.

### Surinam

Dr. Rexford Lord, bat specialist of the Panamerican Zoonosis Center, Buenos Aires, Argentina, has been applying the vampire bat control techniques. Recently he gave demonstrations for Ministry of Agriculture personnel in Surinam.

### Trinidad

Dr. Denny Constantine, U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, included the Denver developed control techniques in a presentation on vampire bat control. Dr. Constantine, an authority on vampire bats, gave his presentation at a symposium on rabies held in Port of Spain.

Uruguay

Vampire bat transmitted rabies has never been reported in Uruguay, but they do have vampire bats. In August, meetings were held with Ministry of Agriculture personnel to explain the control techniques.

Table 1.

Statistics of the Campaign Against Vampire Bats in Nicaragua (April-August) by State

	Pretreatment Data			1974 Treatment	Post-treatment Data			
	Ranches Visited	Cattle Examined	Fresh Bites	Vampires Captured and Treated	Cattle Treated	Cattle Examined	Fresh Bites	Reduction in Biting
<u>Granada</u>								
Ranches Evaluated	146	10,911	10,832	167	5,840	8,336	1,202	88%
Ranches Not Evaluated August	43	6,959	2,200	17	2,295			
TOTAL	189	17,870	13,032	184	8,135	8,336	1,202	88%
<u>Boaco</u>								
Ranches Evaluated	121	11,363	4,967	333	3,079	13,519	903	82%
Ranches Not Evaluated August	25	3,292	1,222	68	1,182			
TOTAL	146	14,655	6,189	401	4,261	13,519	903	82%
<u>Rivas</u>								
Ranches Evaluated	16	543	853	-	529	553	27	97%
Ranches Not Evaluated August	29	1,080	1,986		990			
TOTAL	45	1,623	2,839	-	1,519	553	27	97%

	Pre-treatment Data			Treatment		Post-treatment Data		
	Ranches Visited	Cattle Examined	Fresh Bites	Vampires Captured and Treated	Cattle Treated	Cattle Examined	Fresh Bites	Reduction in Biting
<u>Matagalpa</u>								
Ranches Evaluated	33	5,469	2,334	98	1,863	5,473	376	84%
<u>Managua</u>								
Ranches Evaluated	34	4,777	2,268	115	1,113	4,781	239	89%
<u>Carazo</u>								
Ranches Evaluated	65	2,162	3,688	-	2,782	2,169	177	95%
<u>Chontales</u>								
Ranches Evaluated	10	1,211	1,331	64	911	1,903	121	91%
<u>Chinandega</u>								
Ranches Evaluated	5	1,022	799	25	423	1,022	206	75%
<u>Leon</u>								
Ranches Evaluated	6	545	618	-	545	545	117	81%
<u>Zelaya</u>								
Ranches Not Evaluated	25	1,278	1,873	-	1,211	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL EVALUATED</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>38,003</b>	<b>27,690</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>17,085</b>	<b>38,301</b>	<b>3,368</b>	<b>88%</b>
<b>NOT EVALUATED</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>12,609</b>	<b>7,281</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>5,678</b>			
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>50,612</b>	<b>34,971</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>22,763</b>	<b>38,301</b>	<b>3,368</b>	<b>88%</b>