

FIRST SPECIMEN BASED RECORD OF THE EGYPTIAN FREE-TAILED BAT *TADARIDA AEGYPTIACA* E. GEOFFROY, 1818 (CHIROPTERA: MOLOSSIDAE) FROM ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA

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ABBREVIATIONS

BB - Braincase breadth; C-M^m - Maxillary tooththrow; C-Mⁿ - Mandibular tooththrow; C¹-C¹ - Anterior palatal width; CBL - Condyllo-basal length; CCL - Condyllo-canine length; E - Ear; FA - Forearm; GTL - Greatest length of skull; M - Mandible length; M¹-M¹ - Posterior palatal width; T - Tail length; Tib - Tibial length; ZB - Zygomatic breadth

Chakraborty *et al.* (2004) reported the presence of Egyptian Free-tailed Bat (*Tadarida aegyptiaca* E. Geoffroy, 1818) in Andhra Pradesh based on sightings by Nagulu *et al.* (1998). It has been reported from Adilabad, Guntur, Khammam, Karimnagar, Kurnool, Mahbubnagar, Nalgonda, Prakasam, Ranga Reddy and Warangal districts of Andhra Pradesh (Nagulu *et al.*, 1998; C. Srinivasulu, *pers. obser.*). There has been no collections of this species from Andhra Pradesh (see Chakraborty *et al.*, 2004), hence we report the first collection locality record of Egyptian Free-tailed Bat from the state.

The Egyptian Free-tailed Bat is distributed through most of Africa, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman to India and Sri Lanka. In India, this species has been recorded from Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal (Simmons, 2005; Pradhan & Mahabal, 2001; Karad & Yardi, 2004; Bates & Harrison, 1997; Srinivasulu *et al.*, in press).

During a survey, in March 2000, to document the faunal elements of the Osmania University Campus, Hyderabad, we came across an all-male colony of seven individuals of *T. aegyptiaca* under the banner board on the east-facing wall of the Arts College building at about 1100hr. This species is known to roost in caves and buildings (Rosevear, 1965; Kashyap, 1978), under stone slabs on hillsides (Wroughton, 1912; Irwin & Donnelly, 1962; Phillips, 1980), under banner boards (Freeman, 1981; Pradhan & Mahabal, 2001), and narrow cracks and spaces in pillars (Roberts, 1977; Brosset, 1962).

One individual was collected with the help of a scoop net from the roosting site. The voucher specimen was identified based on available literature, standard keys and character matrices (Bates & Harrison, 1997; Srinivasulu, 2003). Morphometric and cranial measurements were recorded and the specimen (NHMOU/Chir/OU/1) was preserved in 70% alcohol and deposited in the Natural History Museum at the Department of Zoology, Osmania University.

Description of the voucher specimen M. Ganeshkumar & M. Siliwal

Morphology: This is a medium sized free-tailed bat (FA: 49.0mm; T: 36.35mm; E: 19.30mm; Tib: 15.59mm). The tail projects well beyond the posterior border of the uropatagium. Ears are large, not joined on the forehead, well separated. The feet are hairy, wing membranes hairless. Pelage is fine and dense and the coat colour is dark chestnut brown dorsally and paler ventrally.

Cranial measurements (mm): (Images 1^w & 2^w) GTL: 19.76; CBL: 18.86; CCL: 17.93; C-M³: 7.29; C¹-C¹: 5.09; M¹-M¹: 8.26; M: 14.00; C-M₃: 8.25; ZB: 11.78; BB: 9.98.

Dentition: The upper premolar is small and is in the tooththrow and there are two pairs of lower incisors.

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^w See Images in the web supplement at www.zoosprint.org



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