



The bats of Yucatan.



This is an extended version of the article which appeared in the January 2012 newsletter. Dr. Celia Sélem Salas is an ex Bedfordshire Bat Group member who is currently researching bats in Mexico at the University of Yucatán. She is very keen for other bat workers to visit her to help with her research. If you think you might be interested please get in touch

Mexico has one of the world's highest biodiversities as it marks the border between two major biogeographical areas (It comes second in the world for reptiles third for mammals and fourth for amphibians) It also has a very high proportion of endemics , (with 53% of reptiles and 30% mammals found. only in Mexico. There are a total of 137 species of bat in Mexico of which Yucatan has 62. 37 of these are only found in that region.

Celia gave us a mouth watering insight into her research in the Ría Lagartos Biosphere Reserve. This has a mixture of habitats: tropical forest, petenes (freshwater) mangroves, dune shrubs and seagrasses .

She brought with her a beautiful set of photos. These really need to be seen in colour to be fully appreciated and I will be putting some extra photos on the web version of this article.

Celia is working with a small team of researchers to investigate the community structure of bats species, their use of flowers and fruits and the relationship between vegetation structure and bat abundance and biodiversity.



The photon the left is a very pregnant female *Centurio senex*. This bat is not going to win a beauty contest any time soon.

Somehow it looks rather better when roosting. It is almost cute.





This *Cariollia soweli* looks very photogenic hanging up



To move onto more “normal” looking bats, we were very taken with this *Tonati evoti*, Davi’s round eared bat (below) who weighs in at between

14 and 30 grams and eats insects, fruit and pollen.



Another of her pictures showed an *Artibeus*

Lasirius ega The Yellow Bat



jamaicensis (whose fur was stained yellow with a oil produced by the plant was she was visiting, leaving it the colour of a smoker’s nicotine stained finger.



Just look at the feet of this fishing bat *Noctilio leporinus*
All Photos

Celia pointed out that it is hard work trapping bats all night



All photos (c) Dr. Celia Sélem Salas