

Mammalia, Chiroptera, Molossidae, *Tadarida brasiliensis* I. Geoffroy, 1824: Distribution extension

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ABSTRACT: *Tadarida brasiliensis* is one of the most widely distributed mammalian species in America. We report the southernmost continental record for this species in Rada Tilly, province of Chubut, Argentina, extending its range ca. 390 km to the south.

Tadarida brasiliensis (I. Geoffroy, 1824) is a medium-sized bat, with characteristic parallel furrows on the internal surface of its large and rounded ears. It has a square tragus well developed and lips with deep vertical extensible grooves. The body color is variable within shades of brown and gray (Barquez *et al.* 1999; Parera 2002). *Tadarida brasiliensis* is a migratory species that forms large colonies with millions of individuals and occupies several types of roosts, including caves and natural crevices, buildings, and roofs of houses (Parera 2002). It feeds mainly on insects and is often preyed by owls and wild or domestic cats (*e.g.* Massoia 1989; Trejo and Lambertucci 2007).

Tadarida brasiliensis is easily recognizable among other patagonian small bats (*e.g.* *Histiotus montanus*) on the basis of the following cranial characters: the rostrum is narrow and the lachrymal furrow is visible. The canine is long and pointed. The first premolar (P1) is almost imperceptible, its height barely surpassing the cingulum of the canine. The P2 has a high protocone. The first molar (M1, absent in the study specimen) and M2 are essentially identical and have four commissures; the protocone and the hypocone (Hy) are well developed. The M3 has only three commissures and the hypocone is absent (Barquez *et al.* 1999) (Figure 1).

Among the mammals that inhabit America, *T. brasiliensis* is one of the most widely distributed species. It occurs from Oregon, southern Nebraska, and Ohio (USA) to Greater and Lesser Antilles, and extends southward along the slopes of the Andes in Colombia, Ecuador and Perú towards Chile, Bolivia, southern Paraguay, southern Brazil and Argentina (Wilkins 1989; Barquez *et al.* 1999; Simmons 2005). In Argentina, the known geographic distribution for *T. brasiliensis* is based on numerous records, from the north to about 42° S in the south (Barquez *et al.* 1999). Daciuk (1974) registered this species in Puerto Madryn. On the other hand, Hill (1988) mentions a specimen for the Malvinas Islands.

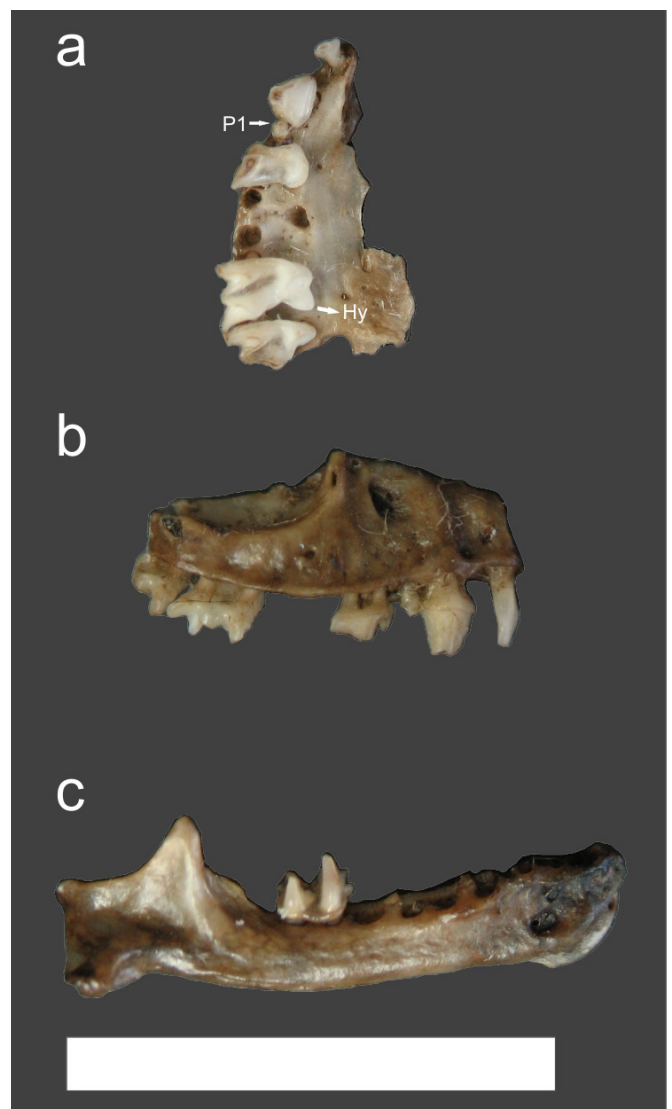


FIGURE 1. Maxillary bone (a, ventral view; b, lateral view) and right mandible with incomplete tooth row (c, lateral view) of *Tadarida brasiliensis* from Rada Tilly, Chubut, Argentina (MN-E 136). Abbreviations: P1: first premolar; Hy: hypocone. Scale = 10 mm.

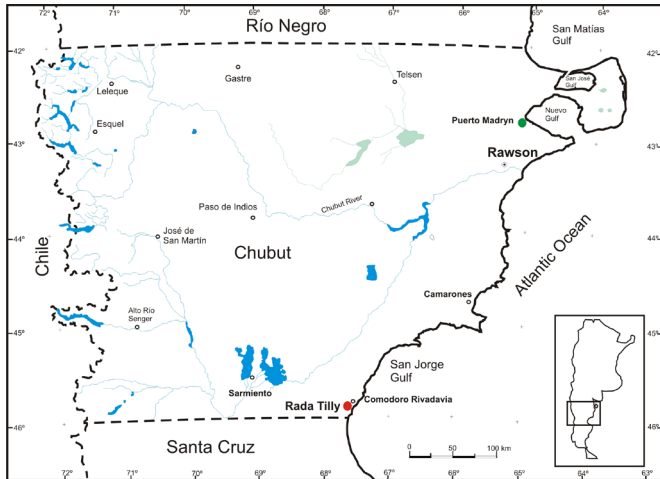


FIGURE 2. New locality record (indicated with a red circle) for *Tadarida brasiliensis* in Rada Tilly, Chubut, Argentina, and the previous southernmost locality (green circle).

Here we report a new locality record for *T. brasiliensis* in Patagonia. Crania and mandible remains were recovered from a Magellanic Horned Owl (*Bubo magellanicus*; Aves, Strigidae) pellet sample, collected in September 2007 in southwest Rada Tilly, Chubut ($45^{\circ}56'28.76''$ S, $67^{\circ}34'38.53''$ W; Figure 2). This area is located within the limits of the Patagonian Phytogeographical Province (*sensu* León et al. 1998) and is characterized primarily by *Atriplex lampa*, *Festuca argentina* and *Grindelia chilensis*.

Osteological remains picked apart from the pellet sample were identified by comparison with reference material housed at the Colección de Zooloología y Zoología, Unidad de Antropología y Arqueología, Centro Nacional Patagónico, Puerto Madryn, Argentina, and with specific literature (Barquez et al. 1999). The examined specimen is housed in this collection, and the collector's field number assigned to the owl pellet sample is MN-E 136.

The new locality reported herein constitutes the southernmost continental record for *T. brasiliensis*, extending its range ca. 390 km from the previous known southern locality (Daciuk 1974).

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