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NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Mammalia, Chiroptera, Vespertilionidae, *Myotis albescens*: New occurrence site in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

Fernando Marques Quintela [1]
Rafael Almeida Porciúncula [1]
Susi Missel Pacheco [2]

[1] *Fundação Universidade Federal do Rio Grande, Departamento de Ciências Morfo-Biológicas. Avenida Itália km 8. Caixa Postal 474, CEP 96201-900, Rio Grande, RS, Brazil. E-mail:* boiruna@yahoo.com.br

[2] *Instituto Sauver. Rua Dr. Paulo Franco dos Reis 40. CEP 90480-090, Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil.*

Myotis albescens (E. Geoffroy, 1806) is a medium-sized bat (Chiroptera: Verspertilionidae) characterized by a dark-chocolate dorsum and a whitish belly. Its urogenital and perianal regions have white fur from the base to the top, what makes it impossible to mix it and *M. levis* up (Barquez et al. 1993). Besides, its femoral membrane has a pigmented edge with fur. *Myotis albescens* feeds on insects and may form large colonies, or even cohabitate with other bat species (Achaval et al. 2004). Some records from Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela suggest that this species occurs mainly in rural areas and, eventually, in human constructions (González 1973; Laval 1973; Einsenberg and Redford 1991; Pacheco and Freitas 2003). Peracchi et al. (2006) and Tavares et al. (in press) reported the occurrence of this species in all Brazilian states; Miranda et al. (2007) recorded *M. albescens* in Paraná and Rio Grande do Sul states. Voss (1973) and Pacheco and Marques (2006) observed that this species is most commonly observed in savannas and pioneer vegetations and may use either inhabited or abandoned houses.

According to Simmons (2005), the occurrence area of *M. albescens* extends all over Latin America, from southern Vera Cruz in Mexico to Uruguay and northern Argentina. Pacheco et al. (2007) recorded the species in five sub-basins: Camaquã, Piratini-Mirim-São Gonçalo, Caí, Santa Maria, Apuaê-Inhandava, that include the cities of Bagé, São Lourenço do Sul, Maquiné, Barracão, Itaara, Santa Maria, and Frederico Westphalen. We present a new occurrence site of *M. albescens* for Rio Grande do Sul (Figure 1).

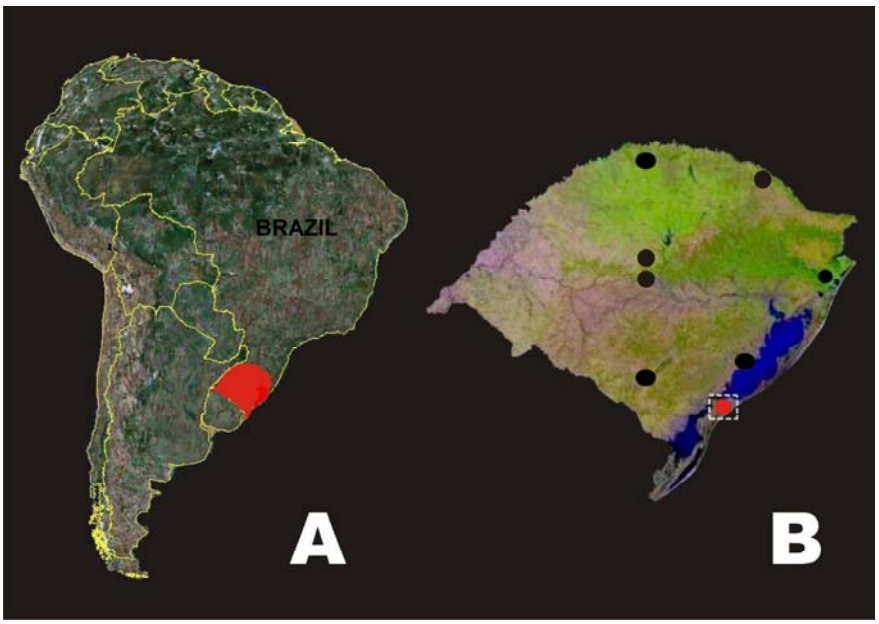

Figure 1. A, South America showing the state of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil (red); B, sites where specimens of *Myotis albescens* were collected in the state (dark points, previous records; red point, present record).

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The city of Rio Grande (31°01'40" S, 52°05'40" W) is located in the southern region of Rio Grande do Sul coastal plain on the shore of Lagoa dos Patos, at sea level. During the field work of a project on the city's bat fauna, a male individual of *M. albescens* (Figure 2) was captured in a mist net positioned over a streamlet along the bridge near the salt marsh of Lagoa dos Patos (31°59.247' S, 52°14.636' W) on 31 January 2006, around 22:30 h. The predominant vegetation of this area is composed of grassweeds (*Scirpus* sp.), rushes (*Juncus* sp.), ferns (*Blechrum* sp.), and some sparse trees. The measurements of the collected specimen (Table 1) and its hair color and robust feet confirm the identity (Barquez et al. 1999).

Figure 2. General view of a *Myotis albescens* specimen collected in the municipality of Rio Grande, southern Brazil. Photo by F. M. Quintela.

Table 1. Specimens of *Myotis albecens* deposited in scientific collections at Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

Measurements (mm)	Specimens			
	MA 1	MA 2	MA 3	MA 4
E	12.2	15.0	-	-
FA	37.0	38.4	34.3	-
FT	9.8	8.0	-	-
HB	44.0	49.0	-	-
LT	78.6	91.0	-	-
T	32.2	42.0	-	-
GSL	14.4	-	14.3	13.4
ZB	-	-	-	-
BCH	5.8	-	5.8	5.8
BB	7.4	-	-	7.3
MTR	5.1	-	5.1	5.1
PW	4.1	-	4.0	4.1
UMR	5.3	-	5.1	5.6
IW	4.9	-	-	5.0
BMt	7.5	-	7.5	7.50
DL	10.1	-	-	10.0
LTR	5.3	-	-	5.2
C1-C1	3.8	-	3.8	3.7

The individual was preserved in alcohol (70 %) and deposited in the mastozoological collection of the *Museu de Ciências e Tecnologia* at *Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul* (MCT 1721).

The present record contributes to the knowledge on the geographic distribution of *M. albescens*. Because there are too few data on its distribution in southern Brazil, the conservation status of this species, in Rio Grande do Sul, has been considered as Data Deficient (DD) according to Pacheco and Freitas (2003).

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