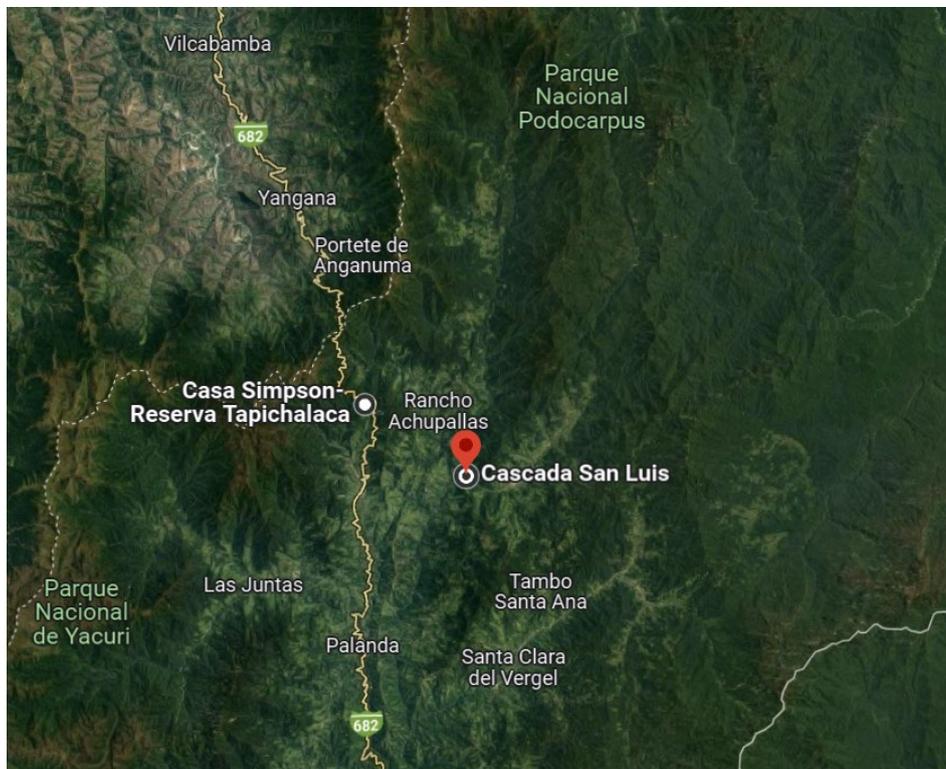


Bats of Cascada San Luis cave – SE Ecuador (1,280m elevation)

John Rogers - March 18, 2023

Guide: Juan Carlos Figueroa – Birdtrips Ecuador

Cascada San Luis cave is in south-east Ecuador close to the small town of Tambo Vallodolid near Podocarpus NP. We stayed at Jocotoco's Tapichalaca reserve and got to the cave via a 90-minute drive and a 45-minute moderately vigorous walk from the waterfall viewing area. 6 bat species were a welcome addition to an otherwise low-mammal-count trip.



1. *Desmodus rotundas* Common Vampire



2. *Lonchophylla handleyi* Handley's Nectar Bat



ID notes: Nectar feeder, bicoloured brown fur, uropatagium encloses knees, wings attach to ankles, long leaf nose, eastern Andes, 1280m elevation

- 11 potential species in Ecuador: *Lonchophylla handleyi*, *L. hesperi*, *L. mordax*, *L. robusta*, *L. thomasi*, *L. orientacollina*, *Anoura caudifer*, *A. cultrate*, *A. geoffroyi*, *Choeroniscus minor*, *C. periosus*, *Glossophaga commissaris*, *G. soricine*, *Lichonycteris obscura*
- Uropatagium appears naked and encloses knees – eliminates *Anoura* genus
- Wing attached to ankle – *Lonchophylla* genus
- Fur bicoloured – *Lonchophylla* (eliminates tri-coloured *Lichonycteris* and *Lionycteris*)
- Fur brown – eliminates “orange” *L. robusta/orientacollina*
- Range – eliminate western *L. hesperi*, *L. mordax*, *C. periosus*, *G. valens* (western split from *soricine*), *C. minor* (IUCN range map includes western Ecuador and eastern Amazonian Ecuador only)

- Elevation 1284m – eliminates lowland *L. thomasi* (below 800m)



3. *Lonchaphylla robusta* Orange Nectar Bat



As above for *L. handleyi* but chestnut/orange colour.

NB: *L. orienticollina* (Eastern Cordilleran Nectar Bat) is a data deficient species sympatric with both *handleyi* and *robusta* in Colombia/Ecuador and “superficially very similar” to *robusta*. From Davalos (2008) appears that *robusta* may be more likely above 1,000m specifically, and in Ecuadorian Andes more generally.



4. *Myotis nigricans* Black Myotis



Seems to be too dark for *M.albescens* or *M.keaysi*, and on line images of *nigricans* show chest hair is a little lighter

5. **Carollia brevicaudi** Silky Short-tailed Bat



Brevicaudi seems to be more common *Carollia* in Podocarpus (Rex et al 2008)

6. *Dyphylla ecuadata* Hairy-legged Vampire



This photo above is over-exposed.



Same bat - different exposures