

UC SANTA CRUZ CAMPUS NATURAL RESERVE

PALLID BAT



Sarah Doyle

Scientific Name: *Antrozous pallidus*

Common Name: Pallid Bat

Global Rarity: Apparently Secure

State Rarity: California Species of Special Concern; Vulnerable

UCSC Rarity: Unknown



General Description

The Pallid Bat is a social species that is fond of open, dry habitats near rocky roost areas. A locally common resident in much of California, this slow-flying and maneuverable species typically forages within about 8 feet of the ground. It is adapted to eat hard-shelled invertebrate prey, which it often catches on the ground or among foliage and sometimes brings back to its night roost to consume. It is known to sometimes roost with other bat species.



Identification

General Color: Tan fur and white underbellies

Features: Large ears, pig-like snout, and small eyes

Size: Adult wingspan can reach up to 16 inches. Adults reach a weight of around 1.2 ounces (or 0.08 lbs), which is around the weight of a pencil.

Geographic Range

The Pallid Bat ranges from western Canada through the west and central United States and down into Baja California, Central Mexico, and Cuba. This species is a relatively common resident throughout California, where it can be found in a variety of habitats in most regions. Though it doesn't seem to migrate long distances, it can move short distances to hibernate.





UCSC Distribution

UCSC has suitable forest and grassland habitat for the Pallid Bat, but this species has not yet been detected on any surveys on campus.

Life History

Habitat: The Pallid Bat prefers dry, open grasslands but can be found in habitats throughout California that include woodlands and mixed conifer forests. They can be found roosting in groups in the day in places where they are protected from high temperatures, such as rocky crevices, and at night can be found roosting more openly in vegetation.

Reproduction: This species mates in the late fall-early winter and young are born in the late spring through mid-summer. Typically, a female will give birth to a litter of two, and will care for them for about two months until they are able to fly on their own.

Behavior: The Pallid Bat is a nocturnal species, and is most active about an hour after sunset and an hour before dawn. They hibernate in the winter. They have a lifespan of approximately nine years in the wild.

Diet: This species feeds on a variety of insects, such as crickets, beetles and grasshoppers, but they are also known to eat scorpions and lizards. They also drink nectar.

Predators: This species is especially susceptible to ground predators such as foxes, raccoons, snakes, cats, and large amphibians.

Research Highlights

- Unlike many other bat species, the Pallid Bat catches its prey on the ground as well as in flight.
- As a defense mechanism, these bats create a foul odor through parrahinal glands on their snout.
- Pallid Bats use three separate types of roosts: a day roost, a night roost, and a hibernation roost.



Conservation Status

California Species of Special Concern



Threats

1. Pallid Bats are extremely sensitive to roost disturbance and habitat encroachment.
2. Expansion of agriculture into habitat areas, pesticides, fire, and invasive species such as cheatgrass may also be threats to this species.



Ways You Can Help

1. Support bat conservation efforts
2. Avoid disturbance to roost sites
3. Comment on Environmental Impact Reports for projects that propose development in suitable habitat for the Pallid Bat and ask that bat surveys take place prior to development



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