

New record of *Nyctinomops aurispinosus* with an update of its known distribution

Nuevo registro de *Nyctinomops aurispinosus* con una actualización de su distribución conocida

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Nyctinomops aurispinosus is one of four species of the genus *Nyctinomops* (Molossidae) and is considered monotypic. This insectivorous species has a wide but poorly known neotropical distribution. This study documents the first record of the species for the Sama Valley, Tacna department, Perú. In addition, a current distribution map of the species is presented together with facts concerning its dietary composition. The specimen was collected using mist nets during a local bat study and compared with *N. aurispinosus* individuals in the scientific collection of the Museo de Historia Natural Javier Prado, Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos. The distribution map was made of published records and the diet of the specimen was analyzed by stereoscopy of the contents of its digestive tract. The collected specimen was identified as an adult male *N. aurispinosus* in reproductive condition. Analysis of the digestive tract contents showed that its diet was composed of lepidopterans. The current distribution map of the species consisted of a total of 78 published records. This new record for Tacna department expands the distribution of *N. aurispinosus* ca. 270 km to the south of Camaná, Arequipa department, becoming the southernmost record for the Pacific coast. The lepidopteran remains in the digestive tract show that its diet is similar to those reported for other molossids. This finding extends the known distribution of this species to the southwest of South America and increases to ten the number of bat species known from Tacna department. The proximity of this Peruvian record to Chilean territory and regional habitat continuity suggests the probable presence of *N. aurispinosus* in that country.

Keys words: Desert; diet; molossids; range; Tacna; valley.

Nyctinomops aurispinosus es una de las cuatro especies del género *Nyctinomops* (Molossidae), monotípica e insectívora de amplia distribución Neotropical, pero muy poco conocida. El presente estudio documenta el primer registro de la especie para el valle de Sama, departamento de Tacna, Perú, además se elabora el mapa de distribución actual de la especie y brinda aportes sobre la composición de su dieta. El ejemplar fue colectado en un estudio de quirópterofauna local utilizando redes niebla y comparado con individuos de *N. aurispinosus* de la colección científica del Museo de Historia Natural de la Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos. El mapa de distribución se realizó mediante registros publicados y la dieta del ejemplar se analizó por estereoscopia del contenido de su tracto digestivo. El ejemplar colectado fue identificado como un individuo de *N. aurispinosus*, macho, adulto y en etapa reproductiva. El análisis del contenido del tracto digestivo reveló que su dieta estuvo compuesta de lepidópteros. La elaboración del mapa de distribución actual de la especie comprendió un total de 78 registros publicados. Este nuevo registro para el departamento de Tacna expande la distribución de *N. aurispinosus* en aproximadamente 270 km al sur de Camaná, departamento de Arequipa, convirtiéndose en el más austral para la costa del Pacífico. Las estructuras de lepidópteros en el contenido del tracto digestivo del ejemplar revelan que la dieta de la especie es similar a la reportada en otros molósidos. Este hallazgo incrementa la distribución conocida de esta especie hacia el suroeste de Sudamérica, además de elevar a diez el número de especies de murciélagos conocidas para el departamento de Tacna. Debido a la proximidad del registro y similitud de hábitats entre el sur del Perú y el norte de Chile se sugiere la presencia de *N. aurispinosus* en este último país.

Palabras clave: Desierto; dieta; molósidos; rango; Tacna; valle.

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The insectivorous bat family Molossidae has a pantropical distribution ([Simmons 2005](#); [Peracchi et al. 2011](#)) and is represented by 11 genera and 50 species in the Neotropics ([Solari and Martínez-Arias 2014](#); [Medina et al. 2014](#); [Loureiro et al. 2018](#); [Moras et al. 2018](#)), being 29 the species that have been reported for Perú ([Pacheco et al. 2009](#); [Gregorin and Chiquito 2010](#); [Díaz 2011](#); [Medina et al. 2012, 2014](#)). In this family, the genus *Nyctinomops* Miller 1902 is distributed

widely in the Western Hemisphere: from Canadá, United States, México, Belize, El Salvador, Cuba, Jamaica, Haití, Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Panamá, Guyana, French Guyana, Surinam, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Trinidad and Tobago, Brazil, Perú, Bolivia, Paraguay, to Argentina, and Uruguay ([Silva-Taboada and Koopman 1964](#); [McCarthy et al. 1987](#); [McCarthy et al. 1993](#); [Nowak 1994](#); [Simmons 2005](#); [Eger 2008](#); [Owen and](#)

[Girón 2012](#); [Medina-Fitoria et al. 2015](#); [Kraker-Castañeda et al. 2016](#); [Soto-Centeno et al. 2017](#)). The individuals documented in Canadá (British Columbia) and the United States (states of Iowa and Kansas) are considered as vagrants or extralimital records ([Milner et al. 1990](#)). There are four species of *Nyctinomops*: *N. laticaudatus* (É. Geoffroy St.-Hilaire 1805), *N. macrotis* (Gray 1839), *N. aurispinosus* (T.R. Peale 1848), and *N. femorosaccus* (Merriam 1889).

Peale's free-tailed bat, *N. aurispinosus* was described as *Dysopes aurispinosus*, with a type locality south of Cape St. Roque, Estado do Río Grande do Norte, Brazil ([Peale 1848](#)). Later, [Cassin \(1858\)](#) used the name *Molossus aurispinosus* for the specimen described by Peale because of its similarity to *M. rugosus* d'Orbigny, 1837 (a synonym of *Tadarida brasiliensis brasiliensis* I. Geoffroy St. Hilaire 1824) but differing in the color of the fur. Moreover, this author questioned the use of the specific epithet "aurispinosus", which translated from the Latin means "thorny ear" (an external characteristic of *N. aurispinosus*) because of its resemblance to the translation "golden ear".

Afterwards, [Miller \(1902\)](#) described the genus *Nyctinomops* conformed by eight species, designating *N. femorosaccus* as type species. This author also argued that *Nyctinomops* members were intermediate in body size between the genera *Promops* and *Tadarida*, distinguished from *Promops* by narrowly separated premaxillaries anteriorly and from *Tadarida* by its possession of parallel upper incisors that are sometimes in contact with each other.

[Shamel \(1931\)](#) synonymized *Nyctinomops* with the genus *Tadarida*, but recognized two groups; the first with nine smallish species (the *brasiliensis* group) and the second with six larger species (the *macrotis* group), including *Tadarida aurispinosa*, *T. europs*, *T. femorosacca*, *T. laticaudata*, *T. macrotis*, and *T. yucatanica*. Later, *T. europs* and *T. yucatanica* were recognized as *T. laticaudata europs* ([Jones and Álvarez 1962](#)) and *T. l. yucatanica* ([Silva-Taboada and Koopman 1964](#)), respectively, leaving the *macrotis* group conformed by four species. Through a phenetic analysis of the family Molossidae, [Freeman \(1981\)](#) found similarities among these four species of the *macrotis* group, grouping them in the genus *Nyctinomops* with the names of their original descriptions (*N. aurispinosus*, *N. femorosaccus*, *N. laticaudatus* and *N. macrotis*).

Nyctinomops aurispinosus is distributed in México, Honduras, Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil, Bolivia, and Perú from sea level to 3,115 m ([Peale 1848](#); [Sanborn 1941](#); [Ortiz de la Puente 1951](#); [Carter and Davis 1961](#); [Ochoa 1984](#); [Ibáñez and Ochoa 1989](#); [Espinal et al. 2016](#)), being most frequently reported below 1,000 m ([Jones and Arroyo-Cabral 1990](#)). In México, it is found in tropical deciduous forest and trees of the genus *Cupressus*, around rivers and thorny deciduous riparian forests ([Gardner 1963](#); [Jones and Álvarez 1964](#); [Baker and Jones 1972](#); [Wang et al. 2003](#)), as well as in tropical vegetation, thorny bushes, cacti, oak, grasslands, and mesquites ([Baker et al. 1967](#); [Wilson 1985](#); [López-González and García-Mendoza 2006](#)). In Honduras, it was reported in pine-

oak forests with pastures converted for livestock ([Espin et al. 2016](#)); in Venezuela, in very humid pre-montane forest ([Ochoa 1984](#)); in Bolivia, it was reported in spiny trees along the edges of fresh water sources ([Ibáñez and Ochoa 1989](#)); in Brazil, it has been recorded in the Cerrado, Caatinga, and Atlantic Forest biomes ([Taddei and Garutti 1981](#); [Bredt 2003](#); [Eger 2008](#); [Bianconi et al. 2009](#); [Tavares et al. 2010](#); [Aguiar et al. 2012](#); [Garbino 2016](#); [Oliveira et al. 2019](#)); whereas in Perú, *N. aurispinosus* is distributed in the Dry equatorial forest (characterized by flora of the families Capparaceae, Cassuarinaceae, Fabaceae, and Loranthaceae), Pacific coastal desert, and Subtropical puna ([Ortiz de la Puente 1951](#); [Sanborn 1951](#); [Eger 2008](#); [Velazco et al. 2013](#); [Pari et al. 2015](#)).

The holotype of *N. aurispinosus* is deposited in the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History (USNM 3726, collected by Peale on November 18th, 1848) and is an adult male preserved in alcohol with removed skull that was subsequently misplaced ([Shamel 1931](#)). From the registration of the holotype to today, the wide distribution of *N. aurispinosus* stands in contrast to the few specimens in scientific collections around the world; this relates to the fact that molossids represent about 11.7 % of the bat specimens in museums, because their flight characteristics and echolocation make them difficult to capture by conventional methods ([Ammerman et al. 2012](#)).

[Ortiz de la Puente \(1951\)](#) reported the first Peruvian record of *N. aurispinosus* from Lima department (Museo de Historia Natural de la Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos – MUSM 235, 6051). [Sanborn \(1941\)](#) and [Carter and Davis \(1961\)](#) referred a specimen (Field Museum of Natural History - FMNH 68561) collected in Marcapata, Huajyumbe in Cuzco department to this species. Later, [Eger \(2008\)](#) and [Dolman and Ammerman \(2015\)](#) reported *N. aurispinosus* (Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA - LSUMZ 25011, 25012, 25013, 25014, 25021, 25022, 25029) 12 km from Olmos in Lambayeque department. [Velazco et al. \(2013\)](#) reported two specimens (American Museum of Natural History - AMNH 278527 and Colección de Mastozoología, Centro de Ecología y Biodiversidad, Lima, Perú - CEBIOMAS 228) from La Brea, Talara in Piura department, and [Pari et al. \(2015\)](#) reported a specimen (without catalogue information) collected in Camaná, Arequipa department. Recent research has documented an important diversity of insectivorous bats in the south of Perú (molossids and vespertilionids; [Medina et al. 2014](#); [Flores-Quispe et al. 2015](#); [Málaga et al. 2020](#)); however, the difficulty of catching individuals has hampered learning about their natural history.

In this study, we present the first record of *N. aurispinosus* for Tacna department in the extreme south of Perú, which extends its known geographical distribution, and consider this in the context of the currently known distribution of the species. Additionally, we offer the first contributions about the diet of these bats through microscopic examination of its digestive tract contents.

The capture location ($-17^{\circ} 49' 58.23''$ S, $-70^{\circ} 30' 41.07''$ W; 464 m) of the *N. aurispinosus* specimen was 1 km to the north of the locality of Tomasiri, Inclán district, Tacna province in Tacna department, Perú on August 1st, 2015, during the wet season in a study about the diversity of bats in the Sama valley. The research involved a total of six sampling stations, each with seven mist-nets open 11 hours (from 18:00 to 5:00 hours) during four nights per station and season of evaluation (wet and dry), with a cumulative sampling effort of 3,696 hours/net/night. The research was authorized through permit R.D. N°246-2017-SERFOR/DGGSPFFS and authorization code with purposes of scientific research AUT-IFS-2017-057.

The specimen was an adult male in reproductive condition captured in a mist-net placed perpendicular to the main course of Sama river, which was found drowned due to the low flight of *Anas georgica* at the moment of the collection. The sampling station was close to a hillside of semi-consolidated gravel with coarse river sand and clay that reaches 50 m of height with regard to the ground. The riparian forest to the riversides is narrow and for the right presents a wide extension of agricultural crops.

The specimen was identified preliminarily as *N. aurispinosus* because of its external characteristics and measurement of the forearm using the taxonomic key of [Díaz et al. \(2016\)](#), being later preserved in alcohol with the skull removed. Following [Freeman \(1981\)](#) and [Velazco and Solari \(2003\)](#), the following external and cranio-dental measurements were taken with a digital vernier (± 0.01 mm) for the accurate identification of the species: total body length, TL; tail length, T; length of hind foot, HF; ear length, E; total weight, Wt (in grams); greatest length of skull, GLS; condyloincisive length, CIL; postorbital breadth, POB; maxillary toothrow length, CM; upper molar breadth, MM; upper canine breadth, CC; zygomatic breadth, ZB; mastoid breadth, MAB; braincase breadth, BCB; greatest length of mandible, GLM; lower toothrow length, Cm; length of forearm, FA; length of third metacarpal, III MET; total length of fourth metacarpal, IV MET; total length of fifth metacarpal, V MET. These morphological characteristics were compared with other specimens of *N. aurispinosus* (MUSM 235 and MUSM 6051) deposited in the Museo de Historia Natural de la Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos (Table 1).

In order to elaborate the current distribution of the species, we reviewed 78 records covered in other studies ([Peale 1848](#); [Sanborn 1941](#); [Ortiz de la Puente 1951](#); [Carter and Davis 1961](#); [Gardner 1962a, 1962b](#); [Álvarez 1963](#); [Gardner 1963](#); [Álvarez and Aviña 1964](#); [Jones and Álvarez 1964](#); [Baker et al. 1967](#); [Linares 1969](#); [Baker and Jones 1972](#); [Taddei and Garutti 1981](#); [Ochoa 1984](#); [Ibáñez and Ochoa 1989](#); [Silva et al. 1996](#); [Anderson 1997](#); [Pedro et al. 2001](#); [Bredt 2003](#); [López-González and García-Mendoza 2006](#); [Eger 2008](#); [Bianconi et al. 2009](#); [Tavares et al. 2010](#); [Velazco et al. 2013](#); [Dolman and Ammerman 2015](#); [Pari et al. 2015](#); [Espinal et al. 2016](#); [Garbino 2016](#); [Oliveira et al. 2019](#)), which reported specimens deposited in the following scientific collections:

American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), Colección de Mastozoología, Centro de Ecología y Biodiversidad, Lima, Perú (CEBIOMAS), Coleção de Chiroptera do Departamento de Zoologia da Universidade Estadual Paulista, São José do Rio Preto (DZSJRP), Coleção de Mamíferos, Universidade Federal de Lavras (UFLA), Coleção de Mamíferos, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG), Colección Privada de Omar Linares (OL), Collection of Recent Mammals, Museum of Texas Tech University (TTU), Estación Biológica de Doñana (EBD_MAM), Field Museum of Natural History (FMNH), Instituto de Biología de la Universidad Autónoma de México (IB), Instituto Politécnico Nacional, Colección Regional de Durango (CRD), Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA (LSUMZ), Mammal Collection, University of Arizona Museum of Natural History (UAZ), Museo de Biología de la Universidad Central de Venezuela (MBUCV), Museo de Historia Natural de la Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos (MUSM), Museo de la Estación Biológica de Rancho Grande (EBRG), Museum of Zoology of the University of São Paulo / Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo (MZUSP), University of Kansas, Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Research Center (KU), United States National Museum of Natural History (USNM), Texas A&M University, Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collections (TCWC), The Field Museum of Natural History (FMNH), and Michigan State University (MSU; Appendix I).

In addition, to characterize the digestive tract contents, a ventral incision was made to open the digestive tube and separate it in small portions. Its contents were placed over Petri plates and scattered in distilled water with help of stilettos, the samples of interest were preserved in alcohol of 96° ([Shiel et al. 1997](#); [Vidal-Martínez et al. 2002](#); [Caspetá-Mandujano et al. 2007](#)). Finally, the keys of [Whitaker et al. \(2009\)](#) and [Whitaker and Castor \(2010\)](#) were used for identification under a stereomicroscope at 40 and 100X magnifications in the Laboratory of Genetics of the Universidad Nacional Jorge Basadre Grohmann.

The study area of the new record of *N. aurispinosus* located in the Sama valley is surrounded by great desertic areas, cracks, and riverbeds of scarce flow with xeric vegetation (families Anacardiaceae, Asteraceae, Cupressaceae, Fabaceae, and Poaceae). It is geographically located where the Coastal Desert of Perú finishes, and the Atacama Desert begins in Chile. This valley is one of the most important of Tacna department, principally dedicated to agricultural (crops of alfalfa, peppers, onion, corn, and olive) and livestock activities (caprine, equine, porcine, ovine, and bovine cattle).

After external and cranial comparisons with MUSM 235 and MUSM 6051 and based on the original description of *N. aurispinosus* ([Peale 1848](#)) and its subsequent re-description ([Cassin 1858](#)), our specimen (GPZ 001) presented the diagnostic characters for the species, which are described as follows: at external level, the dorsal and ventral fur is short, dense, fine and of chestnut brown color lighter in the base of the hair with tips that give it a silver appearance under the light, wing membranes are brown-violet, ears are big

Table 1. Measurements (and intervals) of the new record from Perú of *Nyctinomops aurispinosus* (MUSM 48232), specimens reviewed in this study, and specimens from Perú, México, Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil, and Bolivia. The abbreviations are specified in the text.

Measurement	MUSM 48232	MUSM 6051	Perú ^{A,B}		México ^{B,C,D,E,F,G,H,I}		Colombia ^J		Venezuela ^K		Brazil ^{L,M,N}			Bolivia ^O	
Sex	M	M	M	F	M	F	M	M	F	M	M	M	M	M	F
GLS	19.45	19.38	20	20.8	20.4 (18.7 - 21.6)	20.02 (17.9 - 20.8)	20.7	21.7	21.6 (21.7 - 21.4)						
					17	12			2						
CIL	18.43		18.8	19.1	18.47 (17.6 - 20)	17.7 (16.9 - 19.1)	18.8		19.9		18.9 (18.7 - 19.2)	19.6 (19 - 20.5)			
					14	11			4		4	4			
POB	3.72	3.64	3.7	3.6	3.73 (3.5 - 4)	3.67 (3.4 - 3.8)	3.9	4.7	4.4 (4.5 - 4.2)	3.6	3.8 (3.7 - 3.9)	3.9 (3.9 - 4)			
					16	11			2		4	4			
CM	7.40	7.30	7.8	7.8	7.65 (6.8 - 8.2)	7.46 (6.9 - 7.8)	7.8	8.5	8.4 (8.4 - 8.3)	8.1	8.1	7.9	(7.8 - 8)	(7.9 - 8.1)	
					17	13			2		4	4			
MM	7.83	7.96	8.06	8.4	8.17 (7.3 - 8.5)	8.2 (7.2 - 8.6)		9.4	9.1 (9.1 - 9)	8.2	8.3	8.4 (8.3 - 8.6)	8.7 (8.6 - 8.7)		
					17	11			2		4	4			
CC	4.71	4.58	4.58	4.8	4.47 (4.1 - 4.8)	4.55 (4.2 - 4.9)	4.7	5.3	5.1 (5.1 - 5)	4.7	4.7				
					6	4			2						
ZB	11.16	11.2	11.2	11.7	11.59 (11.1 - 12)	11.43 (11 - 11.8)	11.6	12.7	12.1 (12.1 - 12)	11.9		11.7 (11.5 - 11.8)	12 (11.7 - 12.1)		
					14	12			2		4	4			
MAB	9.60	9.59		10.9	10.85 (10.2 - 11.3)	11.05 (11 - 11.1)	10.4	11.7	11.1 (11.1 - 11)	11.1					
					6	2			2						
BCB	9.52		9	9.5	9.37 (9.1 - 9.7)	9.22 (8.9 - 9.5)	9.3	10.4	9.6 (9.6 - 9.5)	9.3					
					13	11			2						
GLM	14.15	13.79	13.6		8.33	8.1					15	15.5	14.1		
					11	10					8.7	8.6	8.6		
Cm	8.1	8.22	8.5	8.9	48.23 (7.7 - 9.4)	47.67 (7.5 - 9)	8.5		54.9			49.7	51		
					11	10					4	4			
FA	50		48	51.4	48.76 (47.1 - 50.4)	47.6 (42.4 - 49.8)	49.5	55.3	54.9 (55.7 - 54.2)	51.5	53.4	51.6	(48.7 - 50.3)	(50.3 - 52.8)	
					16	13			2						
III MET	50		48	48.4	47.32 (47.9 - 49.9)	47.6 (46.2 - 48.6)	49	56.5	54.3 (54.6 - 54)	51	51.6	49.4			
					9	10			2						
IV MET	49		46.3	46.8	47.32 (46.7 - 48.5)	46.16 (44.9 - 47.7)	46.2	54.2	53.3 (53 - 52.6)	50.6	50.7	47.8			
					9	9			2						
V MET	28.5		26	26.9	27.88 (26.6 - 29.2)	27.32 (26 - 28.5)	27.5	31.7	29.8 (30.4 - 29.1)	31	28.9	27.3			
					9	9			2						

A: Ortiz de la Puente (1951), B: Carter and Davis (1961), C: Gardner (1962a, 1962b), D: Gardner (1963), E: Álvarez and Aviña (1964), F: Baker *et al.* (1967), G: Baker and Jones (1972), H: Anderson (1997), I: López-González and García-Mendoza (2006), J: Sanborn (1941), K: Ochoa (1984), L: Taddei and Garutti (1981), M: Bianconi *et al.* (2009), N: Oliveira *et al.* (2019), O: Ibáñez and Ochoa (1989). M = Male, F = Female.

and united to the front with presence of small thorn-shape protuberances (from 6 to 8) in their anterior margin, the upper lips wrinkled, the nostrils rounded of lengthened edges with small stiff bristles and the feet with large vibrissa (Figure 1a-f). The skull is large and narrow with a rounded dorsal contour and bulky frontal region, upper incisors are parallel and divided by a narrow emargination of the palate, the posterior margin of which is at the level of the posterior border of the third molars ([Shamel 1931](#); [Gardner 1963](#)). The basisphenoid pits are moderately deep ([Eger 2008](#); [Gregorin and Ciranello 2015](#)) and the sagittal crest is slightly developed ([Jones and Arroyo-Cabral 1990](#); Figure 2).

The specimen has the following external measurements: TL = 106 mm, T = 48 mm, HF = 8 mm, E = 21 mm, and Wt = 14.5 g. Moreover, the forearm has a length of 50 mm and a total length of the skull of 19.45 mm and other measurements that were compared with the reported for the records of *N. aurispinosus* of [Ortiz de la Puente \(1951\)](#) and [Carter and Davis \(1961\)](#) for Perú; [Carter and Davis \(1961\)](#), [Gardner \(1962a, 1962b\)](#), [Gardner \(1963\)](#), [Álvarez and Aviña \(1964\)](#), [Baker et al. \(1967\)](#), [Baker and Jones \(1972\)](#), [Anderson \(1997\)](#), and [López-González and García-Mendoza \(2006\)](#) for México; [Sanborn \(1941\)](#) for Colombia; [Ochoa \(1984\)](#) for Venezuela; [Taddei and Garutti \(1981\)](#), [Bianconi et al. \(2009\)](#), and [Oliveira et al. \(2019\)](#) for Bolivia, evidencing that is inside

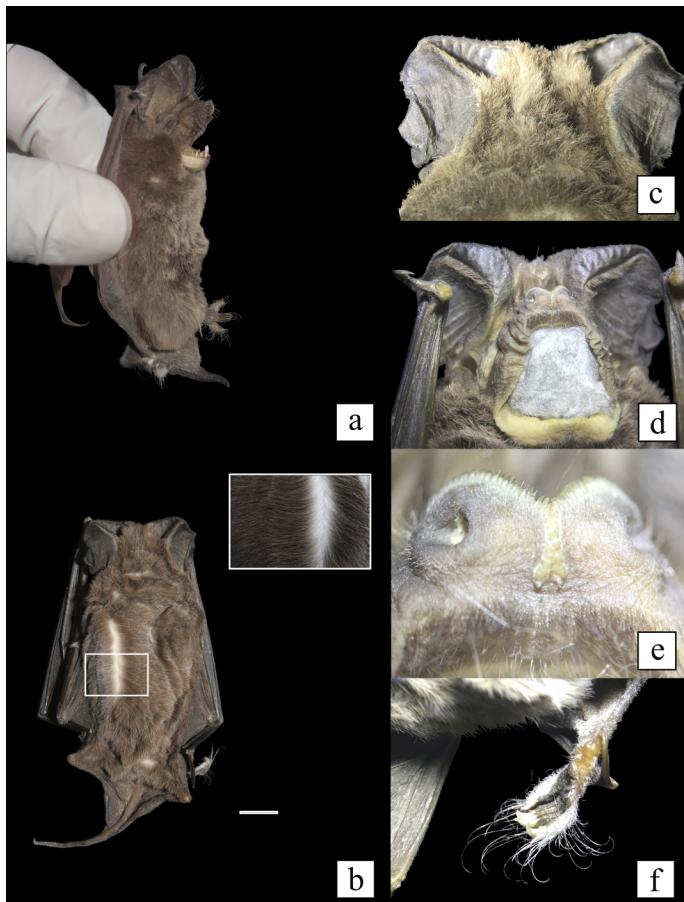


Figure 1. Male adult specimen of *N. aurispinosus* (MUSM 48232), fur characteristics are observed. a) Lateral view of the specimen. b) Dorsal view of the specimen. c) Presence of spine-shaped bumps on the anterior margin of the ears. d) Presence of big ears joined to the front. e) Presence of small stiff bristles at the edge of the nostrils. f) Presence of vibrissa in the hind legs. Scale bar: 5 mm.



Figure 2. Ventral, dorsal, and lateral views of the skull of *Nyctinomops aurispinosus* (MUSM 48232). Scale bar: 5 mm.

the range of size of the species. Our specimen was deposited as MUSM 48232 in the scientific collection of the Mammalogy department of the Museo de Historia Natural de la Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos.

The current distribution map of *N. aurispinosus* in the Neotropics was elaborated from 78 records referred in scientific publications (Figure 3). On the other hand, the digestive tract content analysis uncovered remains of insects corresponding to 100 % lepidopterans, consisting of antennas, scales, legs, and proboscis (galeas that compounds the proboscis; Figure 4 a-f).

Nyctinomops aurispinosus is considered a rare species due to the relatively few specimens in scientific collections ([Bianconi et al. 2009](#)) and infrequent captures related to its sophisticated system of echolocation and flight at high altitudes; these characteristics of most molossids make their capture difficult with mist-nets ([Norberg and Rayner 1987](#); [Kalko et al. 1996](#); [Voss and Emmons 1996](#)).

In this study, we present the current distribution and the first record of *N. aurispinosus* for Tacna department, Perú. This finding represents the southernmost report for the Pacific coast, extending the geographical distribution of *N. aurispinosus* ca. 270 km to the south, from the previous record of the species in Arequipa department ([Pari et al. 2015](#)). The presence of *N. aurispinosus* in the extreme south of Perú is consistent with other records of the species along the American tropics and sub-tropics ([Eger 2008](#); [Bianconi et al. 2009](#); [Espinal et al. 2016](#)).

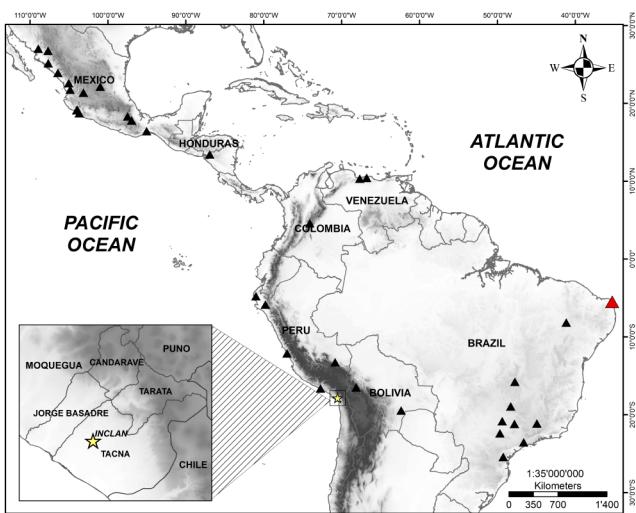


Figure 3. Geographic distribution of *Nyctinomops aurispinosus* in México, Honduras, Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil, Bolivia, and Perú (▲); type locality (▲); including the new southernmost record from Perú (★) (MUSM 48232).

The record of *N. aurispinosus* over the course of Sama river is consistent with reports of the species near freshwater bodies, such as streams, puddles, and rivers in México and Bolivia (Gardner 1962a, 1962b, 1963; Baker et al. 1967; Baker et al. 1972; Wilson 1985; Ibáñez and Ochoa 1989); these may relate to the foraging behavior of molossids at great height, but they are also captured with mist-nets over fresh water sources when descending to drink (Voss and Emmons 1996). The majority of the records of the species are associated to coastal places at low altitude (Álvarez and Aviña 1964; Wilson 1985), suggesting that it prefers low and warm zones, again in agreement with the zone of the new record.

The roosts that *N. aurispinosus* probably uses in the Sama valley are rock cracks in steep slopes, as has been observed for *Mormopterus kalinowskii*, *Promops davisoni*, and *Tadarida brasiliensis* in nearby valleys (Aragón and Aguirre 2014; Flores-Quispe et al. 2019). Previous reports referred to its occupation of cracks and caves with other molossids (Ortiz de la Puente 1951; Sanborn 1951; Carter and Davis 1961; Álvarez 1963), as well as high-rise human constructions (Taddei and Garutti 1981; Ochoa 1984; Bianconi et al. 2009).

The specimen (MUSM 48232), as shown in Table 1, has external and cranial measurements slightly smaller than reported by other studies. Additional studies are needed to determine whether size variation in the species is significant.

The analysis of the digestive tract contents showed the remains of lepidopterans, as occurs for *N. macrotis* and *N. femorosaccus* in studies about their diets (Ross 1967; East-erla and Whitaker 1972; Sparks and Valdez 2003; Debelica et al. 2006; Matthews et al. 2010). Molossids with long thin teeth, which are characteristic of the genus *Nyctinomops*, have a wide gape and can feed on large flying insects, provided that they have a soft consistency (Freeman 1979).

Previously, nine bat species were reported for Tacna department (*Amorphochilus schnablii*, *Desmodus rotundus*, *Histiotus macrotus*, *H. montanus*, *Mormopterus kalinowskii*, *Myotis atacamensis*, *Platalina genovensium*, *Promops davi-*



Figure 4. Remains of lepidoptera found in the digestive tract of the specimen MUSM 48232. a) Scales and leg. b) and c) Tibia. d) Section of the flagellum of an antenna and portion of proboscis. e) Proboscis: galeas that compound the proboscis. f) Scale.

soni and *Tadarida brasiliensis*; Aragón and Aguirre 2014; Flores-Quispe et al. 2015). The new record of *N. aurispinosus* (MUSM 48232) brings to ten the number of species recorded in the department. In the same way, the proximity of the record and the similarity among the habitats of the Peruvian south and the Chilean north suggests that *N. aurispinosus* may also occur in Chile, similarly to the proposal by Flores-Quispe et al. (2015) for *Promops davisoni*, which was recently confirmed by Ossa et al. (2018).

The new record and range extension presented in this work fill information gaps about the distribution and ecology of *N. aurispinosus*. Therefore, we recommend the development of more studies in order to obtain a better approximation about the diversity of bats in the extreme south of Perú.

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Appendix I

Records of *Nyctinomops aurispinosus* used in the map of the update of its distribution (Figure 3). Las letters in parenthesis indicate the records of the specimens used in the table of measurements (Table 1). Names of the corresponding collections to the abbreviations are described in Materials and Methods.

Nyctinomops aurispinosus

Perú: (A) Lima, Cerro Agustino, 12° 06' S, 77° 00' W (MUSM 235, 6051); (B) Cusco, Huajyumbe, 13° 15' S, 70° 30' W (FMNH 68561); Lambayeque, 12 Km al N de Olmos, 5° 50' S, 79° 47' W (LSUMZ 25010, 25011, 25012, 25013, 25014, 25015, 26016, 25017, 25018, 25021, 25022, 25025, 25029); Piura, Talara, 4° 46' S, 80° 59' W (AMNH 278527, CEBIOMAS 228); Arequipa, Camaná, 16° 37' S, 72° 43' W; Tacna, Inclán, 17° 49' S, 70° 30' W (MUSM 48232). **México:** (C) Tamaulipas, Cueva de Abra, 22° 36' N - 99° 01' W (TCWC 6573, 6474, IB 4838, 4839, 4841) (KU KUM 90542, 90543, 90544, 90545); (D) Colima, Pueblo Juárez, 19° 10' N - 103° 55' W (UAZ 7943); Colima, Las Juntas, 5 Km al SE de Pueblo Juárez, 19° 08' N, 103° 54' W (UAZ 8553, 8554, 8555, 8556, 8583); Colima, Cuastecomatán, 19° 7' N, 103° 54' W (UAZ 8894, 8895, 8896, 8897, 8898, 8899, 8900, 8901, 8943); (E) Nayarit, 21° 44' N, 104° 51' W ; San Luis Potosí, Cueva en El Salto, 22° 09' E, 100° 59' W (KUM 91774); (F) Michoacán, Coahuayana, 18° 45' N, 103° 38' W (IB 6241, 6269); Oaxaca, Juchitlán, 16° 26' N, 95° 01' W (IB 4592, 1547); (G) Zacatecas, Juchipila, 21° 25' N, 103° 07' W (MSU 10273); (H) Sonora, rio Cuchahauqui, 26° 52' N, 108° 55' W (TTU 62969, 62970); (I) Sonora, Comanito, 25° 10' N, 107° 40' W (AMNH 244353); (J) Chihuahua, Morelos, 26° 47' N, 107° 41' W, (CRD 4550). **Honduras:** San Marcos de Colón, 53 Km al NE de Choluteca, 13° 27' N, 86° 55' W. **Colombia:** (K) Bogotá, 04° 36' N, 74° 05' W (FNMH 48560). **Venezuela:** (L) Aragua, Estación Biológica de Rancho Grande, 10° 21' N, 67° 40' W (MBUCV 1067, EBRG 1856, 2691, 2693); Miranda, Cueva de los Carraos, 10° 26' N, 66° 47' W (OL 1065 SVE). **Brazil:** (M) São Paulo, São José do Rio Preto, 20° 49' N, 49° 23' W (DZSJP 4786); São Paulo, Ribeirão Preto, 21° 10' S, 47° 49' W (MZUSP 15463); São Paulo, Estación Ecológica Caetetus, 22° 25' S, 49° 42' W; São Paulo, São Paulo, 23° 32' S, 46° 37' W; (N) Paraná, Curitiba, 25° 25' S, 49° 15' W (RA 24116); Rio Grande do Norte, 160 Km al S de Cabo San Roque, 5° 29' S, 35° 26' W (USNM 3726); Minas Gerais, Lavras, 21° 07' S, 45° 56' W (UFLA 4049); Minas Gerais, Uberlândia, 18° 55' S, 48° 16' W (UFMG 6940); Distrito Federal, Brasília, 15° 45' S, 47° 45' W; Piauí, Paulistana, 08° 09' S, 41° 09' W; **Bolivia:** (O) Santa Cruz, Haciendo Cerro Colorado, 19° 27' S, 56° 21' W (EBD_MAM 14047, 14280, 14281, 14282, 14283, 14284, 14285, 14286, 14378); La Paz, La Reserva, 15° 44' S, 67° 31' W.