According to the discovery of fossils, the sub-genus *Syndesmotis* (= *Hipposideros*, according to Hill 1963) was present in Southern France (Sète) and in Morocco during the early and middle Miocene (Legendre 1982). Today, the sub-genus is represented by only one species, *megalotis*, restricted to Eastern Africa and the nearby arid regions of South West Asia. This bat seem to be rare everywhere, considering the small numer of collected individuals.

**Bibliography.**


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**First record of *Asellia patrizii* De Beaux, 1931 (Chiroptera : Hipposideridae) in Saudi Arabia**

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Two small Trident leaf-nosed bats of the genus *Asellia* were obtained on Farasan Island, southern Red Sea (16°41'N, 42°07'E) and on Segid (As-Saqid) Island (16°55'N, 41°55'E), Saudi Arabia, during two field trips in 1989. The first specimen, an adult female preserved in alcohol has been deposited in the mamalian collection of the Museum of Natural History, Geneva (MHNG 1719.70), the other bat, an adult male is housed in the collection of the Saudi National Museum of Natural History (SNNMH 40).

An examination of these specimens and comparative material in the Forschungs institut Senckenberg, Frankfurt (SMF 44996-99, 52372) 2 o, 3 f from West of Metahara, Shoa Province, Ethiopia, left no doubt that they belong

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to *Asellia patrizii* De Beaux, 1931. This species is known only from Ethiopia (Largen et al., 1974) and is comparatively rare in collections. Apart from the type locality, Gaarre (Gaharre *), this bat is mentioned from four other stations in Eritrea, i.e. Assab (Aseb), Entedebir Island (Andeber Deset), Nocra Island (Nokra Deset) and Wongabo region (ca 15°00'N, 39°52'E; De Beaux, 1931; Harrison, 1965; Largen et al., 1974), as well as some localities in Central Ethiopia: North bank of Awash River in the Awash National Park, Shewa (Hill & Morris, 1971), Metahara, W of Metahara, Filwoha (Largen et al., 1974). The specimens from the Farasan archipelago represent the first records of *Asellia patrizii* outside Ethiopia. Future collecting in the Tihama area in southwestern Saudi Arabia, most likely will yield additional specimens of this species.

Measurements (in mm): MHNG 1719.70/SNMMNH 40: length of forearm 37.5/39.4; greatest length of skull 14.8/15.8; condylobasal length 12.9/14.2; condylocanine length 12.8/14.0; zygomatic width 8.0/8.2; least interorbital width 1.8/1.8; width of braincase 5.9/6.3; mastoid width 7.0/7.3; c₁-c₁ 4.0/4.2; m₁-m₁ 5.5/5.7; c-m₁ 5.3/5.3; c-m₃ 5.8/5.8.

Remarks: On the evening of 20th May a number of bats were observed around the headquarters of the Coats Guard House on Farasan Kebir. Apparently, two species were involved, among them several bats clearly referable to *A. patrizii*. The first specimen (MHNG 1719.70) was caught at night inside this building. The second specimen (SNMMNH 40) was collected under similar circumstances immediately after sunset on the 13th December.

Harrison (1965: 4) stated that specimens from Entedebir Island are slightly smaller than those known from the mainland, and speculated about a subspecific distinction of this population. This hypothesis has been rejected by Hill and Morris (1971: 41) on the basis of similar small size in a specimen from the Awash National Park. This latter point of view is supported by the bat from Segid Island which is of comparatively large size.

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**Bibliography.**


