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## ON THE NOTION THAT INSECTIVORY IS A SPECIALIZED CONDITION.

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## From:

Abstracts: Annual Meeting of the American Society of Zoologists and Society of Systematic Zoology Hosted by the Canadian Society of Zoologists

December 27–30, 1977 Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Canada

Published in American Zoologist 17:4 (1977), p. 872.

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ON THE NOTION THAT INSECTIVORY IS A SPECIALIZED CONDITION. Patricia W. Freeman. Field Museum of Natural History Chicago, Illinois

Insectivory as a specialized feeding condition in mammals has not been explored as has been carnivory or herbivory. Insect-feeding, non-edentate mammals have dilambdodont teeth and modifications in the craniomandibular joint which distinguish them from other mammals such as carnivores, herbivores, and omnivores. Variation in a family of insectivorous bats, Molossidae, can be likened functionally to the kineticinertial and static-pressure jaw systems noted in rhipidistians, amphibians, and reptiles. Food data show that the bats with the kinetic-inertial system eat moths and ones with the static-pressure system eat beetles. Not only do these insectivorous mammals eat insects, they also are modified to eat only certain types of insects.