

11-20-1981

Electrophoretic and Immunological Studies on the Relationship of the Brachyphyllinae and the Glossophaginae

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Baker, Robert J.; Honeycutt, Rodney L.; Arnold, Michael L.; Sarich, Vincent M.; and Genoways, Hugh H., "Electrophoretic and Immunological Studies on the Relationship of the Brachyphyllinae and the Glossophaginae" (1981). *Mammalogy Papers: University of Nebraska State Museum*. 68.

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JOURNAL OF MAMMALOGY

Published Quarterly by the American Society of Mammalogists

VOL. 62

20 NOVEMBER 1981

No. 4

ELECTROPHORETIC AND IMMUNOLOGICAL STUDIES ON THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE BRACHYPHYLLINAE AND THE GLOSSOPHAGINAE

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ABSTRACT.—Electrophoretic and albumin immunological data indicate that the Brachyphyllinae as currently conceived is a natural assemblage, with *Erophylla sezekorni* and *Phyllonycteris aphylla* being more closely related to each other than either is to *Brachyphylla cavernarum*. In both data sets, values that distinguish *Erophylla* from *Phyllonycteris* are in the general range of values that characterize congeneric species of mammals. Immunological distance values for the species *Glossophaga soricina*, *Monophyllus redmani*, *Anoura caudifer*, *Leptonycteris sanborni*, *Choeroniscus minor*, and *Hylonycteris underwoodi* indicate that these taxa are approximately equidistant from the Brachyphyllinae. Immunological comparisons of *Glossophaga* and *Monophyllus* to *Anoura*, *Leptonycteris*, *Choeroniscus*, and *Hylonycteris* indicate that the four latter genera are more closely related to *Glossophaga* and *Monophyllus* than *Glossophaga* and *Monophyllus* are to the genera of the Brachyphyllinae. Values from *Lonchophylla thomasi* and *Lionycteris spurrelli* suggest a more distant relationship of these glossophagine genera to the Brachyphyllinae than the other glossophagine genera examined. Our data suggest that a $2N = 32$, $FN = 60$ karyotype like that characteristic of *Glossophaga* is primitive for a clade including the Brachyphyllinae and the glossophagine genera *Anoura*, *Glossophaga*, *Monophyllus*, *Leptonycteris*, *Hylonycteris*, and *Choeroniscus*. These data suggest that the polyphyletic origin of certain glossophagine genera, as proposed by Baker (1967), is unlikely.

This study was designed to provide data on the evolution and systematics of the only endemic subfamily of Antillean bats, the Brachyphyllinae (Phyllostomidae). The evolutionary affinities and number of genera in the Brachyphyllinae (=Phyllonycterinae; see Baker, 1979) has been a persistent source of debate (Silva-Taboada and Pine, 1969; Baker and Bass, 1979). One of the three genera, *Brachyphylla*, currently placed in this subfamily has been placed in four different subfamilies (Baker and Bass, 1979). Data from G-band chromosomes show that relative to the proposed primitive karyotype for the family Phyllostomidae (Patton and Baker, 1978), *Brachyphylla* shares a derived karyotype with *Erophylla* and *Phyllonycteris* (the other two genera recognized in the Brachyphyllinae). However, this derived karyotype is also shared with two genera (*Glossophaga* and *Monophyllus*) of the subfamily Glossophaginae. Therefore, these chromosomal data cannot conclusively document that *Brachyphylla* is more closely related to *Erophylla* and *Phyllonycteris* than to the glossophagine genera *Monophyllus* and *Glossophaga*. We address this systematic question using biochemical data from both starch-gel electrophoresis and albumin immunology.

The current chromosomal data for *Glossophaga*, *Monophyllus*, and the brachyphyllines can be interpreted in at least two ways. First, the karyotype of the brachyphyllines and *Glossophaga* and *Monophyllus* is pleisiomorphic for all glossophagines

as well as the brachyphyllines, or second, this karyotype is the result of a group of synapomorphic character states that document that some glossophagine genera (*Monophyllus*, *Glossophaga*, and possibly others) and the Brachyphyllinae shared a common ancestor after diverging from other glossophagines (as proposed in fig. 8 of Gardner, 1977). The systematic implications of the two alternatives are radically different. In the first case, recognition of the Brachyphyllinae would be justifiable from a phylogenetic standpoint, with the Glossophaginae as a sister taxon. However, the second case would imply that despite the classical anatomical and dental differences that serve as the basis for recognition of the two subfamilies, there would be no phylogenetic basis for recognition of the Brachyphyllinae as a sister taxon to the Glossophaginae (Baker and Bass, 1979). The immunological technique of microcomplement fixation was used to examine the above alternative evolutionary hypotheses.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Electrophoretic analysis.—Bats were collected with mistnets from natural populations (species, localities, and sample sizes given under specimens examined). Immediately after sacrifice, liver, kidney, and heart samples were removed and frozen in liquid nitrogen. Techniques for tissue preparation, electrophoresis, and biochemical staining are essentially those described by Selander et al. (1971).

Seventeen isozymes were assayed. These presumed loci were Isocitrate dehydrogenase—1,2 (Idh-1,2), Malate dehydrogenase—1,2 (Mdh-1,2), Lactate dehydrogenase—1,2 (Ldh-1,2), Leucine aminopeptidase (Lap), Albumin (Alb), Glutamate oxalate transaminase—1,2 (Got-1,2), α -Glycerophosphate dehydrogenase (α -Gpd), 6-Phosphogluconate dehydrogenase (6-Pgd), Hemoglobin (Hb), Indophenol oxidase—2 (Ipo-2), Phosphoglucomutase—2 (Pgm-2), Sorbitol dehydrogenase (Sdh), and Peptidase (Pep). The substrate used to resolve Pep was Glycyl-L-leucine. The most common allele for a given locus was designated -100 if cathodal, 100 if anodal. All other variants are described in percentages of this common allozyme. Loci were designated numerically, with the most anodal isozyme being "1" and more cathodal loci being given progressively higher numbers. By using the allozyme data, Rogers' D values (Rogers, 1972) were calculated between the species studied.

Immunology.—Albumins were purified from serum (*Glossophaga*) and pooled tissues (*Brachyphylla*, *Phyllonycteris*, *Monophyllus*) remaining from the electrophoretic studies. For each albumin, 5 g of tissue were homogenized in 15 ml isotris buffer, dialyzed against 50 mM Tris (pH = 8.0), and centrifuged. To the supernatant was added 20 mg Rivanol (2-ethoxy 6, 9 diaminoacridine lactate) in 1 ml of the above buffer and the resulting precipitate was separated by centrifugation. The precipitate (mainly a Rivanol-albumin complex) was then treated with 5 ml of 0.5 M Trizma-HCl until the fine yellow particles of free Rivanol were regenerated. The Rivanol was then separated by centrifugation and the supernatant dialyzed against 0.2 M Tris-sulfate (pH = 8.9) and vacuum-dialyzed to a volume of 0.7 ml. Fifty percent glycerol (0.2 ml) was then added and the albumin isolated by preparative polyacrylamide electrophoresis using the above-mentioned Tris-sulfate buffer for the gel and a Tris-borate electrode buffer (3.2 g Tris, 0.45 g boric acid per liter). The acrylamide concentration was 7.5%. The albumin band was identified using ANS (8-Anilino-1-Naphthalenesulfonic Acid Magnesium Salt), cut out of the gel, and eluted in 12 ml of isotris buffer. Albumin from *Glossophaga* was prepared in the same way except that the original dialysis was done on a six-fold diluted serum sample.

Antisera to the albumins of *Brachyphylla cavernarum*, *Phyllonycteris aphylla*, *Monophyllus plethodon*, and *Glossophaga soricina* were prepared in rabbits (three to four Dutch belted rabbits per albumin) according to the schedule of Sarich (1969). In each case, the antisera to a particular bat species were titered using the microcomplement fixation (MC'F) procedure and pooled in reciprocal proportion to their titers (Sarich and Wilson, 1966). These pooled antisera were used for all subsequent analyses.

Albumins of certain bat species were compared and their corresponding immunological differences calculated using quantitative microcomplement fixation. Immunological differences were reported in albumin immunological distance units (AID) with one unit being approximately equivalent to one amino acid substitution (Prager and Wilson, 1971; Maxson and Wilson, 1974).

Data analysis.—The Fitch and Margoliash (1967) method was used to construct phylogenetic

TABLE 1.—Allozyme data for the seven species of bats examined in the electrophoretic analysis.

Taxa	Isozyme											
	Ldh-1	Ldh-2	Alb	Got-1	Got-2	a-Gpd	6-Pgd	Hb	Ipo-2	Pgm-2	Sdh	Pep
<i>Phyllonycteris</i>	100 (.97) 65 (.03)	-100	82	100	-100	100	100 (.97) 120 (.03)	-80	100	-100	-100 (.94) -137 (.06)	86
<i>Erophylla</i>	82	-100	90	54	-100	100	100	-80	100	-100 (.91) -50 (.09)	-100	100
<i>Brachyphylla</i>	65	-100	76	74	-100	100	110	-80	100	-100	-137	129
<i>Monophyllus redmani</i>	100 (.98) 65 (.02)	-100	76	63	-100	92	100	-80	360	100	-100	171 (.92) 71 (.08)
<i>M. plethodon</i>	133	-100	76	63	-100	79	100	-80	360	100	-100	115 (.90) 97 (.10)
<i>Glossophaga</i>	122	-100	86	63	-100	79	80	-80	100	100	-100	143
<i>Desmodus</i>	65	100	100	49	-60	79	120	-100	60	100	-47	93

TABLE 2.—Rogers' D values ($\times 100$) among the seven species of bats examined.

Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<i>Phyllonycteris aphylla</i>	1	35	41	24	29	41	67
<i>Monophyllus redmani</i>	2		17	41	41	35	61
<i>Monophyllus plethodon</i>	3			41	47	29	55
<i>Erophylla sezekorni</i>	4				36	41	67
<i>Brachyphylla cavernarum</i>	5					47	69
<i>Glossophaga soricina</i>	6						57
<i>Desmodus rotundus</i>	7						

trees from both immunological distance and electrophoretic distance (Rogers' D) values. As indicated by Prager and Wilson (1978), this approach seems to be the most appropriate for immunological and electrophoretic data. Strengths of this approach are as follows: 1) it is an iterative averaging procedure which apportions amounts of change along branch lengths without an assumption of homogeneous rates of evolution; 2) the phylogenetic trees, so constructed, can be evaluated by comparing original input data and output values calculated from the tree (the evaluation used in this study was the F value introduced by Prager and Wilson, 1978, which is defined as $100f/I$, where f is the sum of the absolute values of differences between output and input values and I is the sum of the input values); 3) the immunological data can also be tested for nonreciprocity, which represents the percent deviation between immunological distance values calculated from reciprocal antisera. As noted by Cronin and Sarich (1975) and Sarich and Cronin (1976), most of the disagreement between input and output data from the Fitch and Margoliash trees can be accounted for by percent nonreciprocity.

Specimens examined.—**Erophylla sezekorni.** Jamaica: 1♂, St. Catherine Parish, 0.2 mi E Watermount; 1♀, Westmoreland Parish, Bluefields; 4♂♂, 1♀, St. Ann Parish, Orange Valley; 5♀♀, Portland Parish, 0.8 mi W Drapers. **Phyllonycteris aphylla.** Jamaica: 8♂♂, 6♀♀, St. Ann Parish, Orange Valley; 2♀♀, Hanover Parish, Flint River, 1.5 mi E Sandy Bay; 1♀, St. Catherine Parish, St. Clair Cave. **Brachyphylla cavernarum.** Dominica: 3♂♂, 2♀♀, St. Paul Parish, Stinking Hole; 1♂, St. Paul Parish, Springfield. Montserrat: 2♂♂, 2♀♀, St. Anthony Parish, Belham River, 0.5 mi from mouth of river. **Monophyllus redmani.** Jamaica: 4♂♂, St. Catherine Parish, 0.2 mi E Watermount; 1♀, Westmoreland Parish, Bluefields; 10♂♂, 10♀♀, St. Ann Parish, Orange Valley. **Monophyllus plethodon.** Dominica: 1♂, St. Joseph, 1 mi from mouth of Layou River; 1♂, 8♀♀, St. Paul, Springfield. **Glossophaga soricina.** Venezuela: 2♂♂, Guarico, 45 km S Calabozo Gallery Forest. **Desmodus rotundus.** Costa Rica: 1♂, San Jose, 41.2 mi SW Canas. **Hylonycteris underwoodi.** Mexico: 1♂, Chiapas, 8 mi N Berrizabal. **Leptonycteris sanborni.** Sonora: 1♂, 6 mi NW Alamos, Minas Armalillo. **Anoura caudifer.** Suriname: 1♂, Brokopondo, 1 km N Rudi Kappelvlietveld. **Choeroniscus minor.** Suriname: 1♀, Nickerie, Grassalco. **Lionycteris spurrelli.** Suriname: 1♂, Nickerie, Grassalco. **Lonchophylla thomasi.** Suriname: 1♀, Brokopondo, Brownsberg Nature Park, 8 km S, 2 km W, Brownsweig.

The following specimens are housed in The Museum, Texas Tech University; all specimens of *Brachyphylla*, *Glossophaga*, *Desmodus*, and *Monophyllus plethodon* and one specimen each of *Erophylla* and *Phyllonycteris*. The remaining *Erophylla* and *Phyllonycteris* and all *Anoura*, *Choeroniscus*, *Lionycteris*, *Lonchophylla*, and *Monophyllus redmani* are located in Carnegie Museum of Natural History. Specimens of *Hylonycteris* and *Leptonycteris* are in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California at Berkeley.

RESULTS

Electrophoretic analysis.—Five of the isozymes (Mdh-1,2, Idh-2, Ldh-1, Lap) examined were monomorphic across all seven taxa. The remaining 12 polymorphic loci and the allozyme variants for each species are listed in Table 1. The matrix of Rogers' D values are given in Table 2. From these values we produced the phylogenetic tree shown in Fig. 1. This tree produced the lowest F value (5.5%) of any of the possible phylogenies tested.

It should be noted that the internode shared by *Glossophaga* and the two species

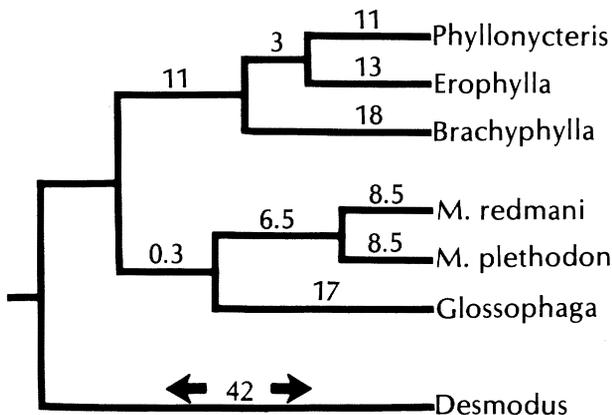


FIG. 1.—Fitch and Margoliash phylogenetic tree constructed using Rogers' D values from the electrophoretic analysis. The F value is 5.5%.

of *Monophyllus* represents a value ($D = 0.3$) that is probably below the level of resolution of the electrophoretic technique. Therefore, this internode could validly be collapsed.

Immunological data.—Reciprocal measurements among the albumins of *M. plethodon*, *P. aphylla*, *B. cavernarum*, and *G. soricina* were carried out using antisera to each of the four. The nonreciprocity value was 6.6% before correction and 5.5% after correction. Amounts of change along the four lineages were assessed using antisera from an outgroup (mixed pool) consisting of six reference albumins: *Carollia perspicillata*, *Micronycteris daviesi*, *Micronycteris sylvestris*, *Tonatia silvicola*, *Vampyrum spectrum*, and *Phyllostomus hastatus*. The Fitch-Margoliash tree developed from these data is presented in Fig. 2.

The albumin immunological distances (AIDs) of *E. sezekorni* and several glossophagine genera to the four antisera indicated above are in Table 3. Although these estimates of immunological distance represent one-way comparisons, one can attempt to place each of these genera by independently fitting it into the tree shown in Fig. 2. This procedure indicates an association of *Erophylla* to *Phyllonycteris* ($F = 5.5\%$) resulting in a *Phyllonycteris-Erophylla* lineage as indicated in Fig. 2. The relative placement for the glossophagine genera plus the "goodness-of-fit" of these genera as assessed using the F value are as follows: 1) *Leptonycteris* is associated with the *Glossophaga* lineage ($F = 7\%$); 2) *Choeroniscus* and *Anoura* are associated with the *Monophyllus* lineage ($F = 3\%$ and 2.5% , respectively); 3) the position of *Hylonycteris* is more tentative and can be placed near the base of either the *Glossophaga* or *Monophyllus* lineage; 4) both *Lonchophylla* and *Lionycteris* represent independent lineages being separated from all four glossophagine and brachyphylline genera ($F = 2.8\%$ and 2.1% , respectively). Although the relationships of these two genera cannot be assessed, rate test data from outgroup comparisons (pooled antisera) suggest that the degree of immunological divergence cannot be attributed to differential rates, but rather to a branching off of these genera prior to the common ancestry of the other glossophagine-brachyphylline lineages.

DISCUSSION

Relationships within the Brachyphyllinae.—Both electrophoretic (Table 2 and Fig. 1) and immunological (Fig. 2) data sets are congruent in defining a brachyphylline clade with *Erophylla* and *Phyllonycteris* sharing a more recent common ancestry than

	M	B	P	G	O	
Monophyllus	0	32	26	35	37	O U T P U T
Brachyphylla	31	0	24	36	47	
Phyllonycteris	25	24	0	30	42	
Glossophaga	33	36	30	0	50	
Outgroup	39	47	43	51	0	

INPUT

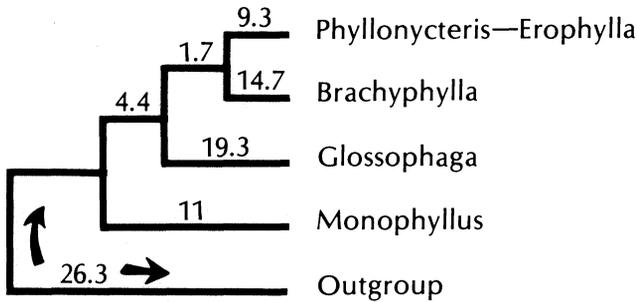


FIG. 2.—Albumin phylogeny of *Glossophaga*, *Monophyllus*, and the brachyphyllines relative to the outgroup indicated in the Results. The input values of AID represent the original distance matrix, whereas the output values represent immunological distance values derived from the phylogenetic tree by averaging the branch lengths connecting taxa. The numbers on the lineages indicate the amount of albumin change along each lineage. The F value is 3.3%. *Erophylla* can be placed with *Phyllonycteris* by one-way comparisons.

either has with *Brachyphylla*. These data support the hypothesis that the Brachyphyllinae as currently conceived forms a natural evolutionary unit. It should also be noted that the *Erophylla* and *Phyllonycteris* molecular distances ($D = 0.24$; AID = 11) are in the general range of those found for congeneric species. From this study, comparisons of *Monophyllus plethodon* and *M. redmani* yield values of $D = 0.17$ and AID = 8. In addition, an electrophoretic examination (Arnold et al., 1980) of four species of *Eptesicus* yielded data that suggest either equivalent or more distant relationships between these four congeners (Rogers' D ranged from 0.21 to 0.47) than found between *E. sezekorni* and *P. aphylla*.

Also of interest is the contrast in degree of difference that distinguishes *Brachyphylla* from *Erophylla* and *Phyllonycteris* at the anatomical and biochemical levels. In spite of the divergence of *Brachyphylla*, the two biochemical data sets agree in placing *Brachyphylla* as near to *Phyllonycteris* and *Erophylla* as *Monophyllus* is to *Glossophaga* (Table 2 and Fig. 2). Anatomically, *Monophyllus* and *Glossophaga* are sufficiently similar that Varona (1974) considered them congeneric. Clearly, the magnitude of anatomical distinctiveness is not mirrored in the two biochemical data sets.

Because the brachyphylline genera were sufficiently unique to be accorded subfamilial status and because of an implied long period of isolation, Baker and Genoways (1978) suggested that these genera were the most likely candidates of any of the Antillean bat fauna for having reached the area by vicariance (Rosen, 1978) rather than over water dispersal. However, distance values from both the electrophoretic and albumin studies are not of the magnitude that would be anticipated if the intra-subfamilial radiation was extremely ancient. Comparative data will be needed from

TABLE 3.—Albumin immunological distances resulting from one-way comparisons of *Erophylla* and six glossophagine species to the four albumin antisera representing both the subfamilies *Glossophaginae* and *Brachyphyllinae*.

Antigen	Antisera			
	<i>Monophyllus</i>	<i>Glossophaga</i>	<i>Brachyphylla</i>	<i>Phyllonycteris</i>
<i>Choeroniscus</i>	16	24	27	21
<i>Hylonycteris</i>	22	26	29	17
<i>Leptonycteris</i>	28	23	37	29
<i>Anoura</i>	21	34	26	23
<i>Lonchophylla</i>	44	48	50	38
<i>Lionycteris</i>	68	49	53	42
<i>Erophylla</i>	28	32	23	11

other Antillean bat taxa before the significance of values from the *Brachyphyllinae* can be understood.

Relationship of the Brachyphyllinae to the Glossophaginae.—We next consider the two hypotheses concerning brachyphylline-glossophagine relationships discussed in the introduction. The albumin immunological data do not support the grouping of the *Brachyphyllinae*, *Monophyllus*, and *Glossophaga* into a derived clade possessing a similar karyotype of $2n = 32$, $FN = 60$. At least four other glossophagine genera (*Choeroniscus*, *Hylonycteris*, *Leptonycteris*, and *Anoura*) are more closely aligned to the *Glossophaga* and *Monophyllus* lineages than either of these two lineages is to the *Brachyphyllinae*. Furthermore, these genera can be associated more closely to either the *Glossophaga* or *Monophyllus* lineages. These data indicate that the $2n = 32$, $FN = 60$ karyotype may be primitive for the entire glossophagine-brachyphylline clade as suggested by Baker and Bass (1979). The *Anoura caudifer* ($2n = 30$, $FN = 60$), *Choeroniscus minor* ($2n = 20$, $FN = 36$), and *Hylonycteris underwoodi* ($2n = 16$, $FN = 24$) karyotypes are then seen as derived from this primitive pattern. In this same regard, *Lonchophylla thomasi* ($2n = 32$, $FN = 38$) and *Lionycteris spurrelli* ($2n = 28$, $FN = 50$) may represent either derived or primitive karyotypic forms. The immunological data indicate that these two genera are the most divergent of all the glossophagine and brachyphylline genera examined; however, the exact relationship between the two genera is more tenuous. It is interesting to note that Gardner (1977) suggested a *Lonchophylla*-like karyotype as primitive for the glossophagines and our data cannot rule out this alternative.

Overall, the immunological data bring into question two important aspects of brachyphylline-glossophagine relationships. First, these data do not support the hypothesized polyphyletic origin of the glossophagine genera as outlined by Baker (1967). The proposition that two or more glossophagine lineages arose independently from a non-nectar feeding stock is highly suspect. Continued G- and C-chromosome banding studies should add further resolution to the exact relationships of glossophagine genera. Second, these data raise a question as to the coordinate (sister-group) status of the subfamilies *Brachyphyllinae* and *Glossophaginae*. An alternative classification would be to relegate the *Brachyphyllinae* to the status of a tribe within the *Glossophaginae*, thus emphasizing the fact that the *Brachyphyllinae* are island forms deriving from the basal glossophagine radiation.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank A. Wilson for providing laboratory facilities in which the immunology experiments were performed. J. D. Smith, A. L. Gardner, M. Haiduk, L. Robbins, and R. L. Robbins aided

by reviewing the manuscript. J. Bickham and J. K. Jones, Jr., helped in collecting specimens. We thank F. Arnold and I. McLean for typing numerous drafts. This study was funded through NSF grant DEB-76-20580, a graduate studies grant from the Graduate School, Texas Tech University to RLH, and the M. Graham Netting Research Fund through a grant from the Cordelia S. May Charitable Trust.

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