

NURSERY POPULATIONS OF PIPISTRELLUS SUBFLAVUS
(CHIROPTERA, VESPERTILIONIDAE) IN MISSOURI

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Abstract: Two cave roosts, microclimates, and population structure are described.

On 4 July 1975 we observed a nursery population of Pipistrellus subflavus near Sullivan, Crawford County, Missouri. The bats were in a 8 m high dome in the twilight zone of a cave, about 30 m from the entrance. The population was in a single, tight cluster and consisted of 7 adults and an estimated 14 small young. In late afternoon temperatures at the top of the dome were 22.0°C for rock surface and 23.0°C for ambient air (recorded with an Atkins telethermometer and banjo and shielded air probes).

On 9 July 1976 we observed a second nursery population of P. subflavus near Bonne Terre, St. Francois County, Missouri. The single cluster roosted in the dome of a cave room and contained 12 adults and 5 or more young. The room measured 5 m x 7 m with a ceiling height of 5 m and was located well beyond the twilight zone of the cave. Ambient temperature 1 m below the bats was 13.6°C, recorded with a Schultheis quick-reading mercury thermometer. Relative humidity was 94 percent, recorded with a Bendix Psychron psychrometer. In both caves the bats were alert but did not take flight while we were present.

The nature of nursery roosts of this bat is poorly known. The only other recorded site is under eaves of a barn (Cope, 1972). We thank D. J. Howell and M. LaVal for field assistance.

LITERATURE CITED

- COPE, J. B. and S. R. Humphrey. 1972. Reproduction of the bats Myotis keenii and Pipistrellus subflavus in Indiana. Bat Res. News. 13:9-10.