

Metacommunity analysis of Mexican bats: environmentally mediated structure in an area of high geographic and environmental complexity

Celia López-González^{1*}, Steven J. Presley², Abraham Lozano¹, Richard D. Stevens³ and Christopher L. Higgins⁴

¹CIIDIR Unidad Durango, Instituto Politécnico Nacional, Sigma 119, Fraccionamiento 20 de Noviembre II, Durango, Durango 34220, México, ²Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering and Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06269-4210, USA, ³Department of Biological Sciences, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, USA, ⁴Department of Biological Sciences, Tarleton State University, Stephenville, TX 76402, USA

ABSTRACT

Aim We tested the hypothesis that distributions of Mexican bats are defined by shared responses to environmental gradients for the entire Mexican bat metacommunity and for each of four metaensembles (frugivores, nectarivores, gleaning insectivores, and aerial insectivores). Further, we identified the main environmental factors to which bats respond for multiple spatial extents.