

Fringed myotis (*Myotis thysanodes*)



Taxonomy:

Family Vespertilionidae. There are three subspecies including *Myotis thysanodes thysanodes* which occurs in Utah.

Description:

This species is distinguishable from other locally occurring species of *Myotis* by its long ears and distinctive fringe of hairs on the trailing edge of the tail membrane.

Total length: 80-99 mm; Tail:35-45 mm; Hind foot: 7.6-9.0 mm; Ear: 16-19; Forearm: 40-46 mm; Weight: 6.0-11.8 g.



Distribution:

From southern British Columbia south through much of the western US to southern Mexico.

Ecology and diet:

Myotis thysanodes mostly occurs arid and semi-arid habitats at low to mid elevations. The species roosts in caves, mines and buildings and probably hibernates at lower elevations. Fringes myotis have specialized feeding habits, mainly preying on small beetles which are gleaned from the surface of vegetation.

Life History:

Mating occurs in late spring and young are born in mid-summer. The single young weighs nearly one quarter of the females mass at birth and grows very rapidly achieving adult size in about a month. Life span is at least 11 years.

References: O'Farrell 1999.