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## Revised phylogeny from complete mitochondrial genomes of phyllostomid bats resolves subfamilial classification

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**Abstract**

Molecular phylogenies of Phyllostomidae have been classically inferred using a combination of few mitochondrial and nuclear markers; however, there is still uncertainty in the classification, especially among deep clades within the family. In this study, we provide newly sequenced complete mitochondrial genomes from 26 bat species, including 23 species' genomes reported for the first time. By carefully analyzing under Maximum Likelihood and Bayesian methods different ingroup and outgroup samples, partition schemes, and data types, we investigated the robustness and sensitivity of our phylogenetic results. The optimal topologies were those inferred with the complete data matrix of nucleotides, with complex and highly parameterized substitution models and partition schemes. Our results show a statistically robust picture of the evolutionary relationships between phyllostomid subfamilies and clarify hitherto uncertain relationships of Lonchorhinae and Macrochinae.

**KEYWORDS:** Lonchorhinae - Macrochinae - mitochondrial genomes - phylogenetics Phyllostomidae

## INTRODUCTION

The New World leaf-nosed bats, family Phyllostomidae [Gray 1825](#), are found ubiquitously in all regions of the Neotropics. The most recent classification recognizes [227 species in 61 genera \(Simmons y Cirranello, 2022\)](#), making it the [second most speciose chiropteran family after Vespertilionidae Gray 1821](#). This group of bats is characterized by its rapid early radiation and recent speciation events ([Velazco, 2005](#); [Solari \*et al.\*, 2009](#); [Larsen \*et al.\*, 2013](#); [Velazco & Patterson, 2013, 2019](#)) that led to an unparalleled morphological, behavioral, and ecological diversity ([Freeman, 2000](#); [Dumont \*et al.\*, 2012](#); [Dávalos \*et al.\*, 2012](#); [Dávalos \*et al.\*, 2014](#); [Baker \*et al.\*, 2016](#)), and an exceptional diversification of feeding habits with six different strategies: sanguivory, insectivory, frugivory, nectivory, carnivory, and omnivory ([Baker \*et al.\* 2012](#)). According to [Baker \*et al.\* \(2016\)](#), Phyllostomidae is divided into eleven subfamilies, twelve tribes and nine subtribes.

Several phylogenetic studies have examined the relationships among phyllostomid bats using nuclear and mitochondrial loci obtained from classical Sanger sequencing ([Baker \*et al.\*, 2003](#); [Datzmann \*et al.\*, 2010](#); [Rojas \*et al.\*, 2011](#); [Dumont \*et al.\*, 2012](#); [Dávalos \*et al.\*, 2014](#); [Rojas \*et al.\*, 2016](#)). Among these studies, [Rojas \*et al.\* \(2016\)](#) inferred a phylogeny from seven nuclear and five mitochondrial genes, which has been used as a backbone for evolutionary inferences in phyllostomids ([Potter \*et al.\*, 2021](#)). Despite these comprehensive analyses, there is still considerable debate about the position of Lonchorhininae [Gray 1866](#), Micronycterinae [Van Den Bussche 1992](#), and Macrotinae [Van Den Bussche 1992](#), at a deeper level. In addition, further studies are required to solve the systematics of certain groups at the genera level; specially those that have been traditionally underrepresented due to limited

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3 taxonomic sampling, limited data sets, and incongruences among and within  
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5 different data types, leading to conflicts when drawing taxonomic or systematic  
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7 conclusions (Solari *et al.*, 2009; Baker *et al.*, 2016; Solari *et al.*, 2019b; Morales-  
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9 Martínez *et al.*, 2021).

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13 Botero-Castro *et al.* (2013) used high-throughput sequencing to obtain complete  
14  
15 mitogenomes through a genome-skimming approach. Using shallow sequencing,  
16  
17 this approach is able to fully recover repeated regions of the genome, typically  
18  
19 organelles such as the mitochondria (Straub *et al.*, 2012; Trevisan *et al.*, 2019). In  
20  
21 their study, Botero-Castro *et al.* (2013) sequenced the complete mitochondrial  
22  
23 genome of eleven bat species, including representatives of seven phyllostomid  
24  
25 subfamilies, and compared the phylogenies from mitochondrial genomes versus  
26  
27 nuclear exons (*rag2* and *vWF*), and single-gene versus concatenation for both kinds  
28  
29 of genes. They found that the phylogeny inferred from concatenated mitogenomic  
30  
31 sequences was better resolved and well supported. Following their previous study,  
32  
33 Botero-Castro *et al.* (2018) sequenced eight new chiropteran mitogenomes and  
34  
35 added sequences from GenBank, consolidating a sample of 39 bat species including  
36  
37 19 phyllostomids representing each subfamily as defined by Baker *et al.* (2003).  
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44 Complete mitochondrial genomes in vertebrates may provide a better resolution of  
45  
46 phylogenetic relationships on various taxonomic levels than short nuclear and  
47  
48 mitochondrial fragments classically used with Sanger sequencing data (Meganathan  
49  
50 *et al.*, 2012; Finstermeier *et al.*, 2013; Fabre *et al.*, 2017; Botero-Castro *et al.*, 2018;  
51  
52 Pan *et al.*, 2020; Hassanin *et al.*, 2020). In addition, advances of high-throughput  
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54 sequencing technologies in the last decade provide efficient access to mitochondrial  
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3 genome sequences (Springer *et al.*, 2004; Paijmans *et al.*, 2013; Morgan *et al.*, 2014;  
4  
5 Phillips & Shazwani-Zakaria, 2021; Toussaint *et al.*, 2021).  
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7

8  
9 The seminal work of Botero Castro *et al.* (2013, 2018) provided the foundation for  
10  
11 phyllostomids mitochondrial phylogenomics. However, the results are based on a  
12  
13 very limited dataset of bats, representing 2.6% of the order's diversity. In this study,  
14  
15 using high-throughput sequencing, we have generated several complete bat  
16  
17 mitogenomes to reconstruct a subfamily-level phylogeny of phyllostomids. We  
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19 herein addressed the following questions: (i) does the newly sequenced  
20  
21 mitogenomic data help to improve the phylogeny at the subfamily level? (ii) what is  
22  
23 the influence of various analytical conditions on the results? In particular, we  
24  
25 investigated the influence of partition schemes, choice of outgroups, data type and  
26  
27 phylogenetic methods.  
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## 34 MATERIAL AND METHODS

### 35 TAXON SAMPLING, DNA EXTRACTION AND SEQUENCING

36  
37 We newly sequenced 32 mitogenomes from 26 new species out of which 23 belong  
38  
39 to Phyllostomidae, two to Vespertilionidae, and one to Molossidae Gervais 1856. The  
40  
41 tissues used for DNA extraction belonged to specimens collected in various field  
42  
43 trips from western provinces of Ecuador (Figure 1), as part of research projects of  
44  
45 the Mammalogy Section of the Museum of Zoology of the Pontifical Catholic  
46  
47 University of Ecuador (QCAZ). Additional information about these specimens can be  
48  
49 retrieved from <https://bioweb.bio/faunaweb/mammaliaweb/>. In addition, we used  
50  
51 39 complete mitogenome sequences generated by Botero-Castro *et al.* (2013, 2018),  
52  
53 composed of 37 sequences from eight chiropteran and two non-chiropteran  
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3 families. Our dataset was thus formed by 71 complete mitogenomes (Table 1). Only  
4  
5 **three** species are represented by two mitogenome sequences: *Desmodus rotundus*  
6  
7 **Wied-Neuwied, 1826** (Desmodontinae **J.A. Wagner, 1840**), *Micronycteris megalotis*  
8  
9 (Micronycterinae **Van Den Bussche, 1992**), and *Artibeus lituratus* **Leach, 1821**.

10  
11  
12 Bat tissue sections (heart, liver, lungs) were pooled per specimen and introduced in  
13  
14 2 mL safe-lock tubes (Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany) with tungsten carbide beads  
15  
16 (3 mm, Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) and 0.7 mL chilled high-glucose (4.5 g/L)  
17  
18 Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM) (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA).  
19  
20 Bats tissues were homogenized with a TissueLyser II (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) for  
21  
22 2 min at 30–50 Hz. The suspension was clarified by centrifugation for 1 min at 8000  
23  
24 rpm at 4°C. DNA and RNA were extracted using the MagMAX CORE Nucleic Acid  
25  
26 Purification Kit (ThermoFisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA) according to  
27  
28 manufacturer's recommendations. The quality and quantity of extracted nucleic  
29  
30 acids were measured using Qubit™ DNA/RNA HS Assay Kit (Thermo Fisher  
31  
32 Scientific, Austin, TX, USA). The extracted DNA (120 ng starting concentration) was  
33  
34 subjected to library preparation using a QIAseq FX DNA Library Kit (Qiagen, Hilden,  
35  
36 Germany) according to the instructions of the manufacturer. Normalized samples  
37  
38 were pooled and sequenced on an Illumina NextSeq550 sequencing platform using  
39  
40 the 300-cycle (2 × 150 bp paired-end) NextSeq550 reagent kit (Illumina, San Diego,  
41  
42 CA, USA).  
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## 52 MITOGENOME ASSEMBLY AND ANNOTATIONS

53  
54 The paired-end Illumina reads were quality checked, automatically trimmed, and  
55  
56 merged using QIAGEN CLC Genomics Workbench 20.0  
57  
58 (<https://digitalinsights.qiagen.com/>). Additional adapter trimming and  
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3 deduplication was performed using the BBtools software package  
4  
5 (<https://sourceforge.net/projects/bbmap/>). The resulting high-quality reads were  
6  
7 *de novo* assembled with Megahit, which in this case was found to give the best output  
8  
9 (Li *et al.*, 2015). We used reference guided mapping, circularization validation,  
10  
11 manual curation, also using the CLC Genomics Workbench 20.0 software. All the  
12  
13 assembled mitochondrial genomes were annotated using MITOS2 metazoan  
14  
15 pipeline (Bernt *et al.*, 2013; Al Arab *et al.*, 2017; Donath *et al.*, 2019), followed by  
16  
17 manual adjustment in Geneious 9.0.5 (<https://www.geneious.com>). We relied on  
18  
19 the publicly available mitochondrial sequences as reference (Botero-Castro *et al.*,  
20  
21 2013, 2018). In order to validate the morphological identification of the bat species,  
22  
23 we used the Barcoding of Life Database Identification Engine on the 5' region of the  
24  
25 COI sequence using the BOLD web server (Ratnasingham & Hebert, 2007).  
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## 32 ALIGNMENT AND PHYLOGENY

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35 Ribosomal RNA and transfer RNA loci were aligned using MUSCLE (Edgar, 2004).  
36  
37 Sequences of protein-coding genes were aligned using TranslatorX (Abascal *et al.*,  
38  
39 2010) to preserve the reading frame. We used trimAl (Capella-Gutiérrez *et al.*, 2009)  
40  
41 to remove poorly aligned regions. Following Botero Castro *et al.* (2018), the protein-  
42  
43 coding gene *nd6* and the control region were excluded from the analyses. The *nd6*  
44  
45 gene has frequently been omitted because it is coded on the light strand, and its  
46  
47 properties differ from those of the other 12 protein-coding genes (Springer *et al.*,  
48  
49 2001; Gao *et al.*, 2018); the control region is the most variable region because of a  
50  
51 faster rate of evolution as compared with the rRNA and protein-coding genes of the  
52  
53 mitochondrial genome (Gong *et al.*, 2015), which may interfere in the phylogenetic  
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3 [interpretation](#). The final data matrix consisted of 71 mitogenomes, each comprising  
4  
5 36 loci (two rRNA, 12 protein-coding and 22 tRNA genes) and averaging 16 kb.  
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8  
9 In order to evaluate the impact of ingroup taxon sampling on the results, we  
10  
11 performed a phylogenetic analysis using the same analytical parameters and the  
12  
13 same outgroups as in Botero-Castro *et al.* (2018), but with an ingroup taxon  
14  
15 sampling that significantly exceeds previous analyses. In their study, Botero-Castro  
16  
17 *et al.* (2018) used sequences from 19 phyllostomid species while we here used [42](#)  
18  
19 species. We consider this step as our “reference analysis” and the resulting topology  
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21 as our “reference tree”.  
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26 To evaluate the influence of partitioning, we analyzed various *a priori* schemes as  
27  
28 well as new estimated ones. For the *a priori* nucleotide partition schemes, following  
29  
30 Botero-Castro *et al.* (2018), we used one partition, five partitions (two independent  
31  
32 partitions for rRNAs and tRNAs combined with three partitions corresponding to  
33  
34 each codon position), 14 partitions (two independent partitions for rRNAs and  
35  
36 tRNAs plus one partition for each protein-coding gene), and 38 partitions (two  
37  
38 independent partitions for rRNAs and for tRNAs plus 36 partitions, one partition for  
39  
40 each codon for each gene). For each *a priori* partition scheme, we used a Generalized  
41  
42 Time Reversible model of substitution rates along with a Gamma distribution and a  
43  
44 fraction of invariable sites (GTR+G+I). In addition, we also estimated the optimal  
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46 partition scheme and evolutionary model using PartitionFinder 2.1.1 (Lanfear *et al.*,  
47  
48 2012) and ModelFinder (Kalyaanamoorthy *et al.*, 2017) as implemented in IQ-TREE  
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50 2 (Minh *et al.*, 2020) (Table 2). The best partitioning schemes were chosen based on  
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52 the Akaike Information Criterion (AIC) (Bozdogan, 1987).  
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3 To evaluate the impact of taxon sampling in the outgroups, we compared our  
4 reference analysis from the complete sample of 71 sequences (henceforth “Full  
5 outgroup dataset”) with a new dataset comprising a subset of 48 nucleotide  
6 sequences with only the mitochondrial genomes of Noctilionidae [Gray, 1821](#) and  
7 Mormoopidae [Saussure, 1860](#) as outgroups (“Reduced outgroup dataset”) (Table 2).  
8 We followed Baker *et al.* (2003) who repeatedly found these families as outgroups  
9 of Phyllostomidae in their higher-level classification analyses with both  
10 mitochondrial and nuclear markers. For each dataset, we estimated the best  
11 nucleotide substitution models and partitioning schemes (Table 2).  
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25 We also performed various analyses using our dataset as amino acids. We only  
26 considered the coding genes and evaluated the impact of outgroups and partitioning  
27 schemes as with the nucleotides. For amino acid data sets, we used one and twelve  
28 partitions (one for each protein-coding gene) as proposed by Botero-Castro *et al.*  
29 (2018), and the resulting best-fit schemes suggested by PartitionFinder and  
30 ModelFinder (Table 3). The *a priori* partitions were analyzed with a LG and mtMAM  
31 model of substitution rates, respectively, along with a Gamma distribution and a  
32 fraction of invariable sites (LG+G+I; mtMAM+G+I). The best partitioning schemes  
33 were chosen based on the Akaike Information Criterion (AIC). As with nucleotides,  
34 we evaluated the impact of outgroups by comparing our reference analysis (71  
35 mitogenomes with full outgroups) with a dataset comprising a subset of 48 amino  
36 acids sequences with only Noctilionidae and Mormoopidae as outgroups.  
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54 We performed an additional analysis considering only the coding genes from our  
55 full nucleotide dataset using a 36-partition scheme (one partition for each codon for  
56 each gene, excluding *nd6*). This analysis was performed to examine the influence of  
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3 the data type (amino acid versus the nucleotide) using the exact same dataset (only  
4  
5 the protein coding genes).  
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8  
9 We performed Maximum Likelihood analyses using RAxML-NG (Kozlov *et al.*, 2019)  
10  
11 starting from 10 parsimony trees and 10 random trees. Bootstrapping was  
12  
13 performed with the bootstopping option (“bs-trees autoMRE{N}” command).  
14  
15 Bootstrap support values were obtained using the classical Felsenstein metric  
16  
17 (Felsenstein, 1985) and Transfer Bootstrap Expectation (Lemoine *et al.*, 2018). For  
18  
19 comparative reasons, we also inferred the ML tree using IQ-TREE2 (Minh *et al.*,  
20  
21 2020) using the edge-linked partition model (Nguyen *et al.*, 2015; Chernomor *et al.*,  
22  
23 2016) and obtained node support with the ultrafast bootstrap (Hoang *et al.*, 2018)  
24  
25 by performing 1000 replicates. Bayesian Inference analyses were performed using  
26  
27 MrBayes 3.2.7 (Ronquist *et al.*, 2012). We partitioned the sequences in 38 sets  
28  
29 corresponding to two independent partitions for rRNAs and for tRNAs plus 36  
30  
31 partitions, one partition for each codon for each gene, and used the best analytical  
32  
33 scheme as evaluated by the Akaike information criterion (AIC). We ran eight MCMC  
34  
35 chains for ten million generations with default heating values. The sampling  
36  
37 frequency was set every 1000 generations and the first 25,000 samples were  
38  
39 discarded as burn-in. A consensus tree was built under the majority rule consensus  
40  
41 of all trees obtained in the eight runs after the burn-in period. We used the “sumt”  
42  
43 command to produce summary statistics for trees sampled during a Bayesian MCMC  
44  
45 analysis. Posterior probabilities of nodes were regarded as estimators of confidence.  
46  
47 Finally, trees were visualized and edited in FigTree v1.4.4  
48  
49 (<http://tree.bio.ed.ac.uk/software/figtree/>). Only the optimal partitioning schemes  
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51 found under ML, were evaluated using Bayesian inference.  
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## RESULTS

After DNA extraction and sequencing, we obtained a mean of 640,043 reads (SD 329,238) per library (Table 4). Among the 32 newly generated mitochondrial genomes, 23 species' genomes have not been published and are first reported here. All mitochondrial genomes show the typical circular structure with an average length of 16,690 pb (SD 152 pb; Table 4) and harbor the gene order found in other mammalian genomes (Pumo *et al.*, 1998; López-Wilchis *et al.*, 2017).

## REFERENCE ANALYSIS

We used as reference the phyllostomid phylogeny inferred from all genes under Maximum Likelihood (ML) using RAxML-NG (Kozlov *et al.*, 2019). Sequence evolution was modeled using a GTR+G+I model and a 38-partition scheme comprising two independent partitions for rRNAs and for tRNAs, plus one partition per gene and per codon position for each coding gene. We used 71 complete mitogenomes which included the "Full outgroup dataset" (Table 2). In essence, this analysis corresponds exactly to the one previously performed by Botero-Castro *et al.* (2018) except for the ingroup where we added 23 new phyllostomid species to the 19 previously used in 2018. As expected, Phyllostomidae is recovered as monophyletic and divided into eleven clades corresponding to all known subfamilies (Figure 1). At the level of deep nodes (subfamilies), we cannot observe differences between our reference topology and the best evaluated topology obtained by Botero-Castro *et al.* (2018), however, the addition of new mitogenomes shows genus-level relationships not presented by Botero-Castro *et al.* (2018) that help clarify the relationships between species, particularly those in nectar-feeding

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3 subfamilies. When compared with the other analyses that combine mitochondrial  
4 and nuclear markers (Baker, 2000; Baker *et al.*, 2003; Rojas *et al.*, 2016), the main  
5  
6 difference in our analysis lies in the position of Lonchorhininae as sister group to  
7  
8 Phyllostominae [Gray, 1825](#), not to a clade formed by Lonchophyllinae [Griffiths, 1982](#)  
9  
10 and the mainly frugivore subfamilies.  
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14  
15 The phylogenetic relationships between the Stenodermatinae [Gervais, 1856](#),  
16  
17 Rhinophyllinae [Baker, Solari, Cirranello & Simmons, 2016](#), Carolliinae and  
18  
19 Glyphonycterinae [Baker, Solari, Cirranello & Simmons, 2016](#) subfamilies are  
20  
21 recovered with strong support. Stenodermatinae shares a common ancestry with  
22  
23 Rhinophyllinae after diverging from a clade formed by Carolliinae and  
24  
25 Glyphonycterinae. Regarding the nectar-feeding phyllostomids, Lonchophyllinae  
26  
27 appears as sister to a lineage comprising the clades formed by Stenodermatinae +  
28  
29 Rhinophyllinae and Carolliinae + Glyphonycterinae (Figure 2), with a strong nodal  
30  
31 support (BS=91%, [node not recovered with Bayesian inference](#)) and in agreement  
32  
33 with Baker *et al.* (2003), Rojas *et al.* (2011), and Rojas *et al.* (2016). Glossophaginae  
34  
35 [Bonaparte, 1845](#) is the nectar-feeding clade that diverged first and is composed of  
36  
37 two major lineages: one containing *Anoura* [Gray, 1838](#) and *Choeroniscus*, and the  
38  
39 other containing *Glossophaga* [E. Geoffroyi, 1818](#) and *Brachypylla* [Gray, 1833](#). In  
40  
41 addition, Phyllostominae appears as a sister group to Lonchorhininae with  
42  
43 moderate bootstrap support and vampire bats are defined as a three-genus  
44  
45 monophyletic clade (Desmodontinae), with well-resolved relationships. In our  
46  
47 reference tree, Macrotinae is recovered as sister group to all remaining  
48  
49 Phyllostomid subfamilies, and Mormoopidae appears as sister family to  
50  
51 Phyllostomidae, also in concordance with previous phylogenetic reconstructions  
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(Baker *et al.*, 2003, 2016; Cirranello *et al.*, 2016). All phylogenetic relationships between non-Phyllostomid families remained consistent with the results obtained in previous studies with mitogenomes except that, for the first time, mitogenomes of the family Molossidae (*Molossus molossus* [É. Geoffroy, 1805](#)) are added and appear closely related to Vespertilionidae.

#### IMPACT OF PARTITIONING SCHEMES

We performed twelve different analyses with various *a priori* partition schemes as well as new estimated ones (Table 2). We did find that a GTR+G+I evolution model along with a 38-partitions scheme (thus corresponding to our “Reference analysis”) yielded the smallest AIC value (Table 2). This evolutionary model and partition scheme also yielded the best AIC value in the analysis performed by Botero-Castro *et al.* (2018). The eleven additional analytical schemes are thus sub-optimal in the sense that they yielded higher AIC values than with the optimal partitioning scheme, including those with IQ-TREE2 performed for comparative reasons. This evaluation is however particularly relevant as it provides a different view of the stability of our results compared to statistical resampling like bootstrap. The presence (or not) of key clades was thus evaluated with a sensitivity analysis of the various analytical conditions and is represented with a Navajo rug approach (Figure 2).

Across the analyses, we were able to identify very stable nodes. The phylogenetic relationships between the Stenodermatinae, Rhinophyllinae, Carollinae and Glyphonycterinae subfamilies are recovered in all the analyses. Rhinophyllinae appears consistently as a sister clade to Stenodermatinae and both subfamilies form a sister clade to another formed by Carollinae and Glyphonycterinae. Vampire bats (Desmodontinae) consistently appear in the same position in all the resulting

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3 topologies, and the relationships between the three species were all well resolved.  
4  
5 Interestingly, the subfamily Lonchorhininae whose position was poorly supported  
6  
7 in previous studies (Rojas *et al.*, 2016) is very stable as sister to Phyllostominae in  
8  
9 our analyses.  
10  
11

12  
13 We identified unstable nodes formed by subfamilies whose phylogenetic  
14  
15 relationships varied depending on the number of partitions. Lonchophyllinae as  
16  
17 sister to the clade formed by Stenodermatinae + Rhinophyllinae and Carolliinae +  
18  
19 Glyphonycterinae appear in only four out of the twelve analyses with bootstraps  
20  
21 values ranging from 63% to 96%. Lonchophyllinae is found as sister to a clade  
22  
23 comprised by Lonchorhininae, Phyllostominae, Glossophaginae, Glyphonycterinae,  
24  
25 Carolliinae, Rhinophyllinae and Stenodermatinae, depicting even better bootstrap  
26  
27 values in the corresponding analyses (BS = 91%–100%). The subfamily is also  
28  
29 recovered as sister to Glossophaginae in several analytical schemes, with medium  
30  
31 to strong support values (BS = 45%–97%). As the position of Lonchophyllinae  
32  
33 change in the topologies, so does Glossophaginae and its phylogenetic placement.  
34  
35 Macrotinae appears as a sister group of all remaining phyllostomids in fifty percent  
36  
37 of the analyses performed, with absolute support (BS = 100%, PP = 1); however,  
38  
39 Micronycterinae is also recovered as sister clade to all remaining phyllostomids  
40  
41 (including Macrotinae) in the other fifty percent of the analyses, also with very high  
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43 support (BS = 100%; PP = 1).  
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#### 52 IMPACT OF OUTGROUPS TAXON SAMPLING

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55 By comparing the topologies obtained with the “Full outgroup dataset” and the  
56  
57 “Reduced outgroup dataset” (Table 2) we observe an effect caused by the number of  
58  
59 outgroups used. Although most of the phylogenetic relationships using less  
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3 outgroups are consistent with the reference tree obtained from the analysis of 71  
4  
5 sequences, some relationships are less stable. In most of the analyses with the “Full  
6  
7 outgroup dataset”, Lonchophyllinae appears as sister to the nodes formed by  
8  
9 Stenodermatinae + Rhinophyllinae and Carolliinae + Glyphonycterinae; however, in  
10  
11 almost all the analyses performed with the “Reduced outgroup dataset”,  
12  
13 Lonchophyllinae is recovered as sister to Glossophaginae, with medium to strong  
14  
15 support values (BS = 45%–97%). Taking this parameter into account, here again, we  
16  
17 observe that as the position of Lonchophyllinae changes in the topologies, so does  
18  
19 Glossophaginae and its phylogenetic placement. Unlike what was observed in all the  
20  
21 analyses with all the sequences, with the “Reduced outgroup dataset”, we found  
22  
23 Micronycterinae as sister clade to all remaining phyllostomids (including  
24  
25 Macrotinae; BS = 75%–89%), although less supported than Macrotinae as the sister  
26  
27 clade to all remaining phyllostomids found with the “Full outgroup dataset”.  
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#### 36 IMPACT OF DATA TYPE

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39 The phylogenetic resolution and associated nodal supports across analyses differ  
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41 significantly according to the type of data (i.e., nucleotides vs. amino acids). For  
42  
43 amino acids, we performed eight different analyses (Table 3). All resulting  
44  
45 topologies were compared, and the presence (or not) of key clades is represented  
46  
47 with a Navajo rug approach as well (Figure S1). For amino acid data sets, the best-  
48  
49 evaluated topology is poorly supported and does not agree with the best-evaluated  
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51 topology of the nucleotide analyses.  
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57 Phyllostomidae is recovered as monophyletic and divided into eleven clades  
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59 corresponding to all known subfamilies; however, as a generality, we also found  
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3 more unstable nodes with lower support than with nucleotides. We found  
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5 Lonchophyllinae as sister to a clade comprised of Lonchorhininae, Phyllostominae,  
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7 Glossophaginae, Glyphonycterinae, Carolliinae, Rhinophyllinae, and  
8  
9 Stenodermatinae with strong bootstrap supports (BS = 98%, [node not recovered  
10  
11 with Bayesian inference](#)) (Figure S1); also, we found Lonchophyllinae as the nectar-  
12  
13 feeding clade that diverged first and as sister to a clade containing Glossophaginae  
14  
15 which then diverged from a lineage containing Glyphonycterinae, Carollinae,  
16  
17 Rhinophyllinae and Stenodermatinae, with poor to strong support values (BS =  
18  
19 40%–91%). Finally, we found Lonchophyllinae forming a monophyletic clade with  
20  
21 Glossophaginae. The position of Lonchorhininae appears unclear when amino acid  
22  
23 data sets were analyzed. As with nucleotides, we found Lonchorhininae as sister to  
24  
25 Phyllostominae in some analyses although mostly with poor bootstrap support. In  
26  
27 most of the amino acid analyses, Lonchorhininae appears as sister to clades  
28  
29 containing the subfamilies Phyllostominae, Lonchophyllinae, Glossophaginae,  
30  
31 Glyphonycterinae, Carolliinae, Rhinophyllinae, and Stenodermatinae. Another  
32  
33 important variation in relation to the results we obtained with nucleotide data sets  
34  
35 was the position of Micronycterinae: in all the analysis carried out with amino acids  
36  
37 Micronycterinae appears as the sister lineage to all the other phyllostomids with  
38  
39 strong support values (BS = 90%–100%). [Our analysis considering only the coding  
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41 genes from our full nucleotide dataset using a 36-partition scheme yielded a  
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43 topology that mostly resembled the best-evaluated phylogeny from the amino acid  
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45 data set and also does not agree with the best-evaluated topology of the nucleotide  
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47 analyses \(Figure S2\).](#)  
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## IMPACT OF PHYLOGENETIC METHODS

For the Bayesian inference, we used the same analytical scheme as for Maximum Likelihood. We observe that the phylogenetic resolution and associated nodal supports differ depending on the inference method. Even with high bootstrap values, some nodes are not recovered under Bayesian Inference. Figure 2 (for nucleotides) and S1 (for amino acids) summarize and compare the support values of the ML analyses and the BI posterior probabilities with a pattern of colored semicircles. In the trees, it can be observed that the absence of a semicircle represents the non-recovery of a particular node by ML or BI.

Under Bayesian Inference we observe relationships between subfamilies (particularly in the less stable nodes) statistically less likely to occur due to posterior probabilities lower than 0.5, for example a monophyletic relationship between Lonchophyllinae and Phyllostominae (PP = 0.47). Additionally, the relationships between Lonchorhininae with the rest of the subfamilies or those of Micronycterinae or Macrochinae as basal clades of Phyllostomidae are neither clear nor consistent under Bayesian analysis.

## DISCUSSION

In this study, we provide newly sequenced complete mitogenomes for 26 bat species, from 16 genera, and three families. Our phylogenomic analysis of phyllostomids confirmed the relationships so far agreed between the subfamilies, with strong supports and highly congruent with those previously suggested by Baker *et al.* (2016), Rojas *et al.* (2016), and Botero-Castro *et al.* (2018). Phyllostomidae was monophyletic and divided into eleven subfamilies. The

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3 phylogenetic relationships between Stenodermatinae, Rhinophyllinae, Carollinae,  
4 and Glyphonycterinae, as well as the position of Desmodontinae were consistent and  
5 well supported. Lonchophyllinae evolved independently of Glossophaginae,  
6 although inconsistent results across different analyses were evident among nectar-  
7 eating subfamilies (see specific discussion hereafter). Unlike what was found by  
8 Rojas *et al.* (2016), Lonchorhininae appears consistently as the sister of  
9 Phyllostominae. Finally, in our reference tree, Macrochinae is retrieved as a sister  
10 group to all the remaining Phyllostomid subfamilies. Despite high support values  
11 both in the ML and BI analyses, our sensitivity analysis highlighted that some  
12 relationships were unstable when parameters related to the number of outgroup  
13 taxa, number of partitions, and data type (i.e., nucleotides vs. amino acids) were  
14 evaluated and we hereafter further discuss the stability of our results and their  
15 implication for evolutionary studies.

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35 The choice of outgroup could have important consequences for the resulting  
36 phylogenetic tree (Graybeal, 1998; Schneider & Cannarozzi, 2009). From all possible  
37 outgroups, the closest one is the best choice to root a tree because shorter distances  
38 suffer less from statistical error and the expected number of homoplasies between  
39 any ingroup and the outgroup is minimized (Muse & Weir, 1992; Smith, 1994). We  
40 expected that by removing all other mammalian families and keeping the closest  
41 outgroups (Reduced outgroup dataset), the phylogeny of Phyllostomidae could be  
42 improved or at least would not be affected. On the contrary, our results showed  
43 discrepancy between phylogenies obtained with the full outgroup dataset and the  
44 reduced outgroup dataset. We found stronger phylogenetic congruence when all  
45 sequences, even those less phylogenetically related, were maintained as outgroups.

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3 This is particularly true for the most basal nodes in phyllostomids, related to the  
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5 phylogenetic placement of Macrochinae and Micronycterinae.  
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9 Early debates concentrated on the choice of the appropriate evolutionary model  
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11 (Kelsey *et al.*, 1999), with the adequacy of the model potentially producing  
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13 differences between topologies with short internal branches (Schneider &  
14  
15 Cannarozzi, 2009). However, it is now well recognized that choosing the most  
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17 adequate model is unimportant and that using the most complex model provides  
18  
19 consistent topologies (Abadi *et al.*, 2019). However, variation in substitution  
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21 patterns across genes and sites should still be accommodated and the partitioning  
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23 of the dataset can have strong influence on the topology (Kainer & Lanfear, 2015).  
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25 Likewise, some of our results proved to be sensitive to the choice of the partitioning  
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27 scheme. This is particularly visible in the “intermediate” part of the tree (between  
28  
29 the shallowest nodes and the deeper nodes) where branch lengths are noticeably  
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31 shorts. The optimal results are however quite stable as they are retrieved in four out  
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33 six partition schemes.  
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41 Of all the analytical schemes that we evaluated, a strong influence of the data type  
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43 (nucleotides vs amino acids) has been observed. In general, the best-evaluated  
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45 model for amino acids yielded a topology that was incongruent with the best-  
46  
47 evaluated nucleotide topology. Our most well-supported result for amino acids (71  
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49 samples with a 7-partition scheme; Figure S1) contradicts most previous relevant  
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51 molecular analyses (Baker, 2000; Baker *et al.*, 2003; Rojas *et al.*, 2011, 2016; Dávalos  
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53 *et al.*, 2012; Cirranello *et al.*, 2016), although it is congruent with the best evaluated  
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55 topology for amino acids by Botero-Castro *et al.* (2018). Both ML and BI analyses  
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57 reconstructed a similar topology; however, more key clades showed lower support  
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3 values, if compared to nucleotides data sets. These low phylogenetic resolutions  
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5 may be due to the use of coding genes only and thus fewer characters. This was  
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7 demonstrated with the analysis we did using only coding genes from the nucleotide  
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9 data set (Figure S2).  
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13 In our reference tree, Lonchophyllinae and Glossophaginae were not sister clades.  
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15 Both ML and BI analyses strongly support the non-monophyly of these lineages.  
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17 However, the most notorious incongruities across analyses were those related to the  
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19 phylogenetic position of the nectar-eating subfamilies. In the case of nectarivores,  
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21 five out of twelve analyses carried out with nucleotides and one out of eight analyses  
22  
23 carried out with amino acids, depicted these two subfamilies as monophyletic.  
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25 Although these results may agree with morphological phylogenies such as Wetterer  
26  
27 *et al.*'s (2000) and some of the analyses made by Dávalos *et al.* (2012), our best-  
28  
29 supported results showed both groups as not sister taxa. The homoplasies observed  
30  
31 in the aforementioned morphological phylogenies may be the result of  
32  
33 morphological similarities associated with ecological adaptations to nectar feeding  
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35 (Gatesy *et al.*, 1996; Sánchez-Villagra & Williams, 1998; Wiens *et al.*, 2003).  
36  
37 However, profound examination of morphological characters such as the oral  
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39 muscle complexes (Griffiths, 1982; Datzmann *et al.*, 2010) and recent extensive  
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41 molecular analyses (Baker *et al.*, 2016; Rojas *et al.*, 2016) strongly support that  
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43 Lonchophyllinae and Glossophaginae evolved nectarivory independently, a result  
44  
45 confirmed by our analyses.  
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54 Across most of our analyses, the position of Lonchorhininae is stable and well  
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56 supported as sister to Phyllostominae. Until the beginning of this century,  
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58 *Lonchorhina* was placed within Phyllostominae (Baker *et al.*, 1989; Koopman, 1994;  
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3 Wetterer *et al.*, 2000; Jones *et al.*, 2002). Baker *et al.* (2003) included *Lonchorhina*  
4 [Tomes, 1863](#) within its own monogeneric subfamily, Lonchorhininae, using as  
5  
6 evidence a Bayesian analysis that combined the nuclear gene *rag2*, the  
7  
8 mitochondrial genes 12S rRNA, Val tRNA, and 16S rRNA. In this analysis,  
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10 *Lonchorhina* diverged from the remainder of the phyllostomids after the divergence  
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12 of vampires but before the common ancestor of the remaining subfamilies. Rojas *et*  
13  
14 *al.* (2011), analyzed the same genes as Baker *et al.* (2003), although it resulted in  
15  
16 another hypothesis in which *Lonchorhina* appeared as sister to a clade comprising  
17  
18 Glossophaginae, Lonchophyllinae, Carollinae, Glyphonycterinae, Rhinophyllinae  
19  
20 and Stenodermatinae. Later, Rojas *et al.* (2016) in a comprehensive phylogenetic  
21  
22 analysis using combinations of seven nuclear loci and five mitochondrial genes from  
23  
24 phyllostomid species found *Lonchorhina* as sister to a clade that excluded  
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26 Glossophaginae and Phyllostominae, although with poor support (i.e., bootstrap  
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28 value < 50%). Our phylogenomic approach supports Lonchorhininae as a sister to  
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30 Phyllostominae. We herein provide a better resolution of the phylogenetic  
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32 relationships between these insectivore subfamilies; although we consider that this  
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34 hypothesis could be [evaluated](#) by analyzing molecular data from all species in the  
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36 genus. The six species included in *Lonchorhina* are essentially insectivores and are  
37  
38 characterized by having highly developed and quite complex ears, tragi, and nasal  
39  
40 leaves (Solari *et al.*, 2019a). Representatives of *Lonchorhina* depend on caves for  
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42 roosting, which are, in general, difficult to access causing specimens to be very rare  
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44 in museum collections (Mantilla-Meluk & Montenegro, 2016). The incomplete  
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46 taxonomic coverage, both morphological and molecular, has historically prevented  
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48 an accurate reconstruction of the relationships within *Lonchorhina* and among  
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50 Lonchorhininae and other subfamilies.  
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## CONCLUSION

Our mitogenomic analysis yielded a topology that was well supported and highly congruent with previous phylogenetic results. Despite variations across analyses, our optimal topology confirmed the known relationships among most subfamilies, nectarivores evolved independently, and Macrochinae is sister to all other subfamilies. [We also propose the hypothesis that Lonchorhininae may be the sister subfamily of Phyllostominae.](#) We found that deeper relationships were sensible to the outgroup and data type selection, and that the intermediate relationships characterized by short internal branches were sensible to the partitioning schemes. Under adequate analytical conditions, complete mitogenomes proved to be extremely useful for resolving patterns of phylogenetic relationships within phyllostomids. This is of particular interest considering that genome-skimming is probably the most efficient method to analyze museum specimens or highly degraded material, which in turn may be the only accessible evidence for solving taxonomic conundra. In addition, future improvements on the phylogeny of phyllostomid could come from [inclusion of more species](#) and the use of large nuclear datasets such as transcriptomics, gene capture or full genome sequencing (Tsagkogeorga *et al.*, 2013; Lei & Dong, 2016; McCormack *et al.*, 2016 2016; Potter *et al.*, 2021).

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## LIST OF TABLES

**Table 1.** List of specimens used in the present study. Records include taxonomic information, voucher identification, GenBank accession number, and bibliographic reference.

**Table 2.** Nucleotide data set used in this study. “Full outgroup dataset” corresponds to the complete sample of 71 sequences, “Reduced outgroup dataset” corresponds to a sub-sample made up of 48 sequences. The partition schemes are described and the Akaike Information Criterion values are compared. The asterisks (\*) denote the best-evaluated partition schemes by this criterion.

**Table 3.** Amino acids data set used in this study. “Full outgroup dataset” corresponds to the complete sample of 71 sequences, “Reduced outgroup dataset” corresponds to a sub-sample made up of 48 sequences. The partition schemes are described and the Akaike Information Criterion values are compared. The asterisks (\*) denote the best-evaluated partition schemes by this criterion.

**Table 4.** General features of the 32 new bat mitogenome assemblies.

## SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE

**Table S1.** Taxonomic and collection data from Ecuadorian specimens analyzed in this study and whose mitogenome sequences were generated (see Table 1 for GenBank accession numbers). Altitude in meters above the sea level. Weight in grams, standard external measures in mm. GPS coordinates in decimal degrees.

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**Figure 1.** Geographical distribution of specimens used in this work. Sampling localities: Pichincha: 1) Alambi (Lon: -78.680733, Lat: -0.030217); Santo Domingo de Los Tsáchilas: 2) Río Mulaute (Lon: -78.993183, Lat: -0.131917); 3) La Lorena (Lon: -79.139733, Lat: -0.2747998); 4) Hacienda Tinalandia (Lon: -79.054433, Lat: -0.2979668); 5) Reserva Otongachi (Lon: -78.9518828, Lat: -0.3212998); Cotopaxi: 6) Guasaganda (Lon: -79.1468667, Lat: -0.7798167); 7) Jardín de los Sueños (Lon: -79.2045668, Lat: -0.8372); 8) San Cristóbal (Lon: -79.1532668, Lat: -0.8607); 9) Manguilita El Triunfo (Lon: -79.20735, Lat: -0.9117498); Manabí: 10) Las Tunas (Lon: -80.8152861, Lat: -1.6621917)

**Figure 2:** Phylogeny of Phyllostomidae based on complete mitochondrial genomes (nucleotide sequences). The tree represents the best Maximum Likelihood phylogeny inferring Phyllostomidae and other chiropteran lineages' relationships. The tree was reconstructed in RAxML under the GTR+GAMMA+I model using the [Full outgroup data set](#) (71 taxa, 14,703 nucleotides). Color filled semicircles on the nodes indicate ML bootstrap support (percentage) and Bayesian posterior probabilities (see inserted caption). The absence of a semicircle on the node indicates that it was not recovered by ML or Bayesian inferences. Each Navajo's Rug shows if the specified node was retrieved (black square) or not (white square) in different analyses performed (see inserted caption).

## LIST OF SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURES

**Figure S1:** Phylogeny of Phyllostomidae based on mitochondrial genomes (amino acid sequences). The tree represents the best Maximum Likelihood phylogeny inferring Phyllostomidae and other chiropteran lineages' relationships. The tree was reconstructed in RAxML under the mtMAM and mtREV +I+G+F models using the [Full outgroup data set](#) (71 taxa, 3,606 amino acids). Color filled semicircles on the nodes indicate ML bootstrap support (percentage) and Bayesian posterior probabilities (see inserted caption). The absence of a semicircle on the node indicates that it was not recovered by ML or Bayesian inferences. Each Navajo's Rug shows if the specified node was retrieved (black square) or not (white square) in different analyses performed (see inserted caption).

**Figure S2:** Phylogeny of Phyllostomidae based on the protein coding genes (CDS) from our full nucleotide data set using a 36-partition scheme. The tree was reconstructed in RAxML under the GTR+GAMMA+I model. Color filled semicircles on the nodes indicate ML bootstrap support (percentage; see inserted caption).

## TABLES

**Table 1.** List of specimens used in the present study. Records include taxonomic information, voucher identification, GenBank accession number, and bibliographic reference.

Family	Subfamily	Species	Voucher <sup>a</sup>	Accession Number	Reference
<b>Chiroptera</b>					
Hipposideridae	–	<i>Hipposideros armiger</i>	–	NC_018540	Xu <i>et al.</i> 2012
Molossidae	Molossinae	<i>Molossus molossus</i>	QCAZ18284	ON357729	This study
Molossidae	Molossinae	<i>Molossus molossus</i>	QCAZ18287	pending	This study
Mormoopidae	–	<i>Pteronotus rubiginosus</i>	ISEM-V-2322	NC_022425	Botero-Castro <i>et al.</i> 2013
Mystacinidae	–	<i>Mystacina tuberculata</i>	–	NC_006925	Unpublished
Noctilionidae	–	<i>Noctilio leporinus</i>	ISEM-V-1890	KU743910	Botero-Castro <i>et al.</i> 2018
Phyllostomidae	Carollinae	<i>Carollia brevicauda</i>	QCAZ18221	pending	This study
Phyllostomidae	Carollinae	<i>Carollia castanea</i>	QCAZ18219	pending	This study
Phyllostomidae	Carollinae	<i>Carollia perspicillata</i>	MHNG1972-003	HG003309	Botero-Castro <i>et al.</i> 2013
Phyllostomidae	Carollinae	<i>Carollia brevicauda</i>	QCAZ18226	pending	This study
Phyllostomidae	Desmodontinae	<i>Desmodus rotundus</i>	EBRG-L-1874	HG003310	Botero-Castro <i>et al.</i> 2013
Phyllostomidae	Desmodontinae	<i>Desmodus rotundus</i>	QCAZ18371	pending	This study
Phyllostomidae	Desmodontinae	<i>Diaemus youngii</i>	MSB-56205	KU743906	Botero-Castro <i>et al.</i> 2018
Phyllostomidae	Desmodontinae	<i>Diphylla ecaudata</i>	MSB-211697	KU743911	Botero-Castro <i>et al.</i> 2018
Phyllostomidae	Glossophaginae	<i>Anoura caudifer</i>	ROM-113962	HG003307	Botero-Castro <i>et al.</i> 2013
Phyllostomidae	Glossophaginae	<i>Anoura cultrata</i>	QCAZ18217	ON310503	This study
Phyllostomidae	Glossophaginae	<i>Anoura geoffroyi</i>	QCAZ18218	ON310504	This study
Phyllostomidae	Glossophaginae	<i>Brachyphylla cavernicium</i>	ISEM-V-2350	NC_022421	Botero-Castro <i>et al.</i> 2013
Phyllostomidae	Glossophaginae	<i>Choeroniscus godmani</i>	QCAZ18233	ON357720	This study
Phyllostomidae	Glossophaginae	<i>Glossophaga soricina</i>	QCAZ18230	ON321893	This study
Phyllostomidae	Glyphonycterinae	<i>Glyphonycteris daviesi</i>	ROM-41125	KU743912	Botero-Castro <i>et al.</i> 2018
Phyllostomidae	Lonchophyllinae	<i>Hsundaycteris thomasi</i>	ISEM-V-1646	KU743907	Botero-Castro <i>et al.</i> 2018
Phyllostomidae	Lonchophyllinae	<i>Lonchophylla concava</i>	QCAZ18274	ON357727	This study
Phyllostomidae	Lonchophyllinae	<i>Lonchophylla concava</i>	QCAZ18273	pending	This study
Phyllostomidae	Lonchophyllinae	<i>Lonchophylla robusta</i>	QCAZ18236	ON357721	This study

Phyllostomidae	Lonchorhinae	<i>Lonchorhina aurita</i>	MVZ-185587	KU743908	Botero-Castro <i>et al.</i> 2018
Phyllostomidae	Macrotinae	<i>Macrotus californicus</i>	MSB-140888	KU743909	Botero-Castro <i>et al.</i> 2018
Phyllostomidae	Micronycterinae	<i>Micronycteris hirsuta</i>	QCAZ18237	ON357722	This study
Phyllostomidae	Micronycterinae	<i>Micronycteris megalotis</i>	ISEM-V-2620	HF947304	Botero-Castro <i>et al.</i> 2013
Phyllostomidae	Micronycterinae	<i>Micronycteris megalotis</i>	QCAZ18280	ON357728	This study
Phyllostomidae	Phyllostominae	<i>Chrotopterus auritus</i>	AMNH-M-272843	KU743905	Botero-Castro <i>et al.</i> 2018
Phyllostomidae	Phyllostominae	<i>Lophostoma brasiliense</i>	QCAZ18085	ON310506	This study
Phyllostomidae	Phyllostominae	<i>Lophostoma silvicola</i>	MNHN2004-352	NC_022424	Botero-Castro <i>et al.</i> 2013
Phyllostomidae	Phyllostominae	<i>Phyllostomus discolor</i>	QCAZ18297	ON357733	This study
Phyllostomidae	Phyllostominae	<i>Tonatia maresi</i>	MNHN2004-376	NC_022428	Botero-Castro <i>et al.</i> 2013
Phyllostomidae	Phyllostominae	<i>Vampyrum spectrum</i>	EBRG-L-1896	NC_022429	Botero-Castro <i>et al.</i> 2013
Phyllostomidae	Rhinophyllinae	<i>Rhinophylla pumilio</i>	ISEM-V-1992	NC_022426	Botero-Castro <i>et al.</i> 2013
Phyllostomidae	Stenodermatinae	<i>Artibeus aequatorialis</i>	QCAZ18246	ON357726	This study
Phyllostomidae	Stenodermatinae	<i>Artibeus jamaincensis</i>	–	NC_002009	Pumo <i>et al.</i> 1998
Phyllostomidae	Stenodermatinae	<i>Artibeus literatus</i>	QCAZ18245	ON357725	This study
Phyllostomidae	Stenodermatinae	<i>Artibeus lituratus</i>	–	NC_016871	Meganathan <i>et al.</i> 2012
Phyllostomidae	Stenodermatinae	<i>Artibeus rarus</i>	QCAZ18228	ON321891	This study
Phyllostomidae	Stenodermatinae	<i>Chiroderma salvini</i>	QCAZ18227	ON321890	This study
Phyllostomidae	Stenodermatinae	<i>Enchisthenes hartii</i>	QCAZ18229	ON321892	This study
Phyllostomidae	Stenodermatinae	<i>Platyrrhinus matapalensis</i>	QCAZ18238	ON357723	This study
Phyllostomidae	Stenodermatinae	<i>Platyrrhinus nigellus</i>	QCAZ18299	ON357734	This study
Phyllostomidae	Stenodermatinae	<i>Sturnira bakeri</i>	QCAZ18306	ON357735	This study
Phyllostomidae	Stenodermatinae	<i>Sturnira ludovici</i>	QCAZ18312	ON357738	This study
Phyllostomidae	Stenodermatinae	<i>Sturnira luisi</i>	QCAZ18241	ON357724	This study
Phyllostomidae	Stenodermatinae	<i>Sturnira bakeri</i>	QCAZ18307	ON357736	This study
Phyllostomidae	Stenodermatinae	<i>Sturnira bakeri</i>	QCAZ18308	ON357737	This study
Phyllostomidae	Stenodermatinae	<i>Sturnira tildae</i>	ISEM-V-2412	NC_022427	Botero-Castro <i>et al.</i> 2013
Pteropodidae	–	<i>Pteropus dasymallus</i>	–	NC_002612	Nikaido <i>et al.</i> 2000
Pteropodidae	–	<i>Pteropus scapulatus</i>	–	NC_002619	Lin & Penny, 2001
Pteropodidae	–	<i>Rosetus aegyptiacus</i>	–	NC_007393	Unpublished
Rhinolophidae	Rhinolophinae	<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	–	NC_016191	Yoon <i>et al.</i> 2011
Rhinolophidae	Rhinolophinae	<i>Rhinolophus formosae</i>	–	NC_011304	Unpublished



Rhinolophidae	Rhinolophinae	<i>Rhinolophus luctus</i>	–	NC_018539	<a href="#">Xu et al. 2012</a>
Rhinolophidae	Rhinolophinae	<i>Rhinolophus monoceros</i>	–	NC_005433	<a href="#">Lin et al. 2002</a>
Rhinolophidae	Rhinolophinae	<i>Rhinolophus pumilus</i>	–	NC_005434	<a href="#">Nikaïdo et al. 2001</a>
Vespertilionidae	Vespertilioninae	<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>	LSUMZ (field number CSM 020)	NC_016873	<a href="#">Meganathan et al. 2012</a>
Vespertilionidae	Vespertilioninae	<i>Myotis albescens</i>	QCAZ18292	ON357731	<a href="#">This study</a>
Vespertilionidae	Vespertilioninae	<i>Myotis formosus</i>	–	NC_015828	<a href="#">Kim et al. 2011</a>
Vespertilionidae	Vespertilioninae	<i>Myotis riparius</i>	QCAZ18293	ON357732	<a href="#">This study</a>
Vespertilionidae	Vespertilioninae	<i>Myotis riparius</i>	QCAZ18288	ON357730	<a href="#">This study</a>
Vespertilionidae	Vespertilioninae	<i>Pipistrellus abramus</i>	–	NC_005436	<a href="#">Nikaïdo et al. 2001</a>
Vespertilionidae	Vespertilioninae	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	–	NC_015484	<a href="#">Unpublished</a>
Vespertilionidae	Vespertilioninae	<i>Plecotus rafinesquii</i>	LSUMZ (field number M8121)	NC_016872	<a href="#">Meganathan et al. 2012</a>
Vespertilionidae	–	<i>Chalinolobus tuberculatus</i>	–	NC_002626	<a href="#">Lin &amp; Penny, 2001</a>
<b>Other mammals</b>					
Bovidae	–	<i>Bos taurus</i>	–	NC_006853	<a href="#">Unpublished</a>
Canidae	–	<i>Canis lupus</i>	–	NC_002008	<a href="#">Kim et al. 1998</a>

<sup>a</sup> Key to institutional abbreviations: **AMNH** – American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA; **EBRG** – Museum “Estación Biológica de Rancho Grande”, Aragua, Venezuela; **ISEM** – University of Montpellier, Montpellier, France; **LSUMZ** – Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science, Baton Rouge, USA; **MHNG** – Natural History Museum of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland; **MNHN** – Museum National d’Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France; **MSB** – Museum of Southwestern Biology, Albuquerque, USA; **MVZ** – Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at the University of California, Berkeley, USA; **QCAZ** – Zoology Museum, Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador, Quito, Ecuador; **ROM** – Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada.



**Table 2.** Nucleotide data set used in this study. “Full outgroup dataset”

corresponds to the complete sample of 71 sequences, “Reduced outgroup dataset” corresponds to a sub-sample made up of 48 sequences. The partition schemes are described and the Akaike Information Criterion values are compared. The asterisks (\*) denote the best-evaluated partition schemes by this criterion.

	Bioinformatics software	Partition scheme	Number of partitions	Number of Parameters	-lnL	AIC
Full outgroup dataset	RAxML-NG	A single partition	1	149	-334,497.3	669,292.6
	RAxML-NG	rRNA + tRNA + protein-coding genes	14	292	-326,799.5	653,985.1
	RAxML-NG	rRNA + tRNA + codon positions	5	193	-332,165.0	664,914.0
	RAxML-NG	rRNA + tRNA + protein-coding genes + codon positions	38	556	-324,889.2	650,890.4*
	PartitionFinder RAxML-NG	Partition by gene	31	436	-330,755.8	662,383.7
	IQTREE2	Partition by gene	19	148	-339,430.8	679,157.6
Reduced outgroup dataset	RAxML-NG	A single partition	1	103	-219193.7	438,593.4
	RAxML-NG	rRNA + tRNA + protein-coding genes	14	246	-217376.1	435,244.2
	RAxML-NG	rRNA + tRNA + codon positions	5	147	-212155.9	424,605.8
	RAxML-NG	rRNA + tRNA + protein-coding genes + codon positions	38	510	-210734.2	422,488.4*
	PartitionFinder RAxML-NG	Partition by gene	28	358	-213561.8	427,839.7
	IQTREE2	Partition by gene	16	254	-211257.2	423,022.5

**Table 3.** Amino acids data set used in this study. “Full outgroup dataset” corresponds to the complete sample of 71 sequences, “Reduced outgroup dataset” corresponds to a sub-sample made up of 48 sequences. The partition schemes are described and the Akaike Information Criterion values are compared. The asterisks (\*) denote the best-evaluated partition schemes by this criterion.

	<b>Bioinformatic software</b>	<b>Partition scheme</b>	<b>Number of partitions</b>	<b>Number of Parameters</b>	<b>-lnL</b>	<b>AIC</b>
<b>Full outgroup dataset</b>	RAxML-NG	A single partition	1	141	-75,293.4	150,868.7
	RAxML-NG	Protein-coding genes	12	231	-70,132.27	140,726.5
	PartitionFinder RAxML-NG	Partition by gene	7	178	-70,134.5	140,625.1*
	IQTREE2	Partition by gene	4	159	-73617.015	147,552.03
<b>Reduced outgroup dataset</b>	RAxML-NG	Partition by gene	1	95	-50,664.04	101,518.09
	RAxML-NG	Protein-coding genes	12	185	-46,991.45	94,352.90
	PartitionFinder RAxML-NG	Partition by gene	6	147	-46,976.63	94,247.27*
	IQTREE2	Partition by gene	4	113	-49,380.65	98,987.31

**Table 4.** General features of the 32 new bat mitogenome assemblies.

QCAZ	Species	Total reads <sup>a</sup>	Mean Coverage	mtDNA Reads	mtDNA Reads (%)	Mitogenome Length	G+C Content (%) <sup>b</sup>
18085	<i>Lophostoma brasiliense</i>	5,020,095	5,931	630,938	12.57	16,653	40.7
18217	<i>Anoura cultrata</i>	5,196,044	4,675	491,888	9.47	16,552	38.67
18218	<i>Anoura geofroyi</i>	5,387,000	4,910	513,801	9.54	16,605	39.87
18219	<i>Carollia castanea</i>	6,010,339	6,504	733,256	12.2	16,711	41.45
18221	<i>Carollia brevicauda</i>	714,6821	7,043	784,051	10.97	16,711	41.45
18226	<i>Carollia brevicauda</i>	7,153,480	6,414	770,227	10.77	16,711	41.45
18227	<i>Chiroderma salvini</i>	5,376,798	11,000	1,129,92	21.01	16,689	41.36
18228	<i>Artibeus rarus</i>	5,546,264	5,943	634,436	11.44	16,709	37.84
18229	<i>Enchisthenes hartii</i>	5,082,139	6,758	703,230	13.84	16,718	38.22
18230	<i>Glossophaga soricina</i>	5,389,214	3,055	347,814	6.45	16,529	37.35
18233	<i>Choeroniscus minor</i>	6,611,734	217	24,935	0.38	16,637	37.59
18236	<i>Lonchophylla robusta</i>	5,501,494	6,901	720,793	13.1	16,666	43.68
18237	<i>Miconycteris hirsuta</i>	5,244,058	10,723	1,109,69	21.16	16,589	42.85
18238	<i>Platyrrhinus matapalensis</i>	5,362,494	6,572	664,783	12.4	16,541	40.68
18241	<i>Sturnira bakeri</i>	5,818,828	6,939	787,240	13.53	16,637	43.27
18245	<i>Artibeus literatus</i>	4,412,371	943	104,092	2.36	16,709	37.84
18246	<i>Artibeus aequatorialis</i>	5,470,809	3,540	368,764	6.74	16,709	37.84
18273	<i>Lonchophylla concava</i>	4,421,729	2,306	232,980	5.27	16,691	39.65
18274	<i>Lonchophylla concava</i>	3,878,886	780	81,974	2.11	16,692	39.97
18280	<i>Miconycteris megalotis</i>	5,125,473	7,611	790,574	15.42	16,589	42.79
18284	<i>Molossus molossus</i>	4,834,631	3,731	385,460	7.97	16,612	36.26
18287	<i>Molossus molossus</i>	5,164,704	6,877	713,304	13.81	16,615	36.54
18288	<i>Myotis riparius</i>	5,610,421	8,940	994,147	17.72	17,052	35.57
18292	<i>Myotis albescens</i>	4,967,853	3,058	326,789	6.58	17,128	35.58
18293	<i>Myotis riparius</i>	4,441,706	2,722	318,278	7.17	17,186	35.81
18297	<i>Phyllostomus discolor</i>	4,216,226	3,482	359,346	8.52	16,692	41.74
18299	<i>Platyrrhinus nigellus</i>	5,369,804	5,302	553,748	10.31	16,541	40.68
18306	<i>Sturnira bakeri</i>	5,518,196	8,591	914,490	16.57	16,637	43.27
18307	<i>Sturnira bakeri</i>	5,365,597	9,504	995,712	18.56	16,637	43.27
18308	<i>Sturnira bakeri</i>	5,973,325	9,823	1,040,51	17.42	16,637	43.27
18312	<i>Sturnira ludovici</i>	4,528,183	8,222	864,316	19.09	16,646	43.61
18371	<i>Desmodus rotundus</i>	6,115,261	12,311	1,389,88	22.73	16,668	47.68

<sup>a</sup> trim / merge / duplicate<sup>b</sup> Approximate values on draft genomes

**Table S1.** Taxonomic and collection data from Ecuadorian specimens analyzed in this study and whose mitogenome sequences were generated (see Table 1 for GenBank accession numbers). Altitude in meters above the sea level. Weight in grams, standard external measures in mm. GPS coordinates in decimal degrees.

Museum number	Field number	Genus	Species	Sex	Age	Province	Precise locality	Longitude	Latitude	Altitude	Weight	Forearm	Head-body length	Tail length	Ear length	Hind foot length
QCAZ18085	NK298731	<i>Lophostoma</i>	<i>brasiliense</i>	F	Adult	Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas	La Lorena	-79.139733	-0.2747998	577	8	34	53.7	8	20.2	8.6
QCAZ18217	QKM54786	<i>Anoura</i>	<i>cultrata</i>	F	Adult	Cotopaxi	San Cristóbal	-79.1532668	-0.8607	517	18.5	41.9	53.7	-	10.8	10.3
QCAZ18218	QKM54793	<i>Anoura</i>	<i>geoffroyi</i>	M	Adult	Cotopaxi	Jardín de los sueños	-79.2045668	-0.8372	621	13	41.7	68.8	-	17.3	11.4
QCAZ18219	QKM54798	<i>Carollia</i>	<i>castanea</i>	M	Adult	Cotopaxi	San Cristóbal	-79.1532668	-0.8607	460	10.5	34.4	47.5	12	16.5	11
QCAZ18221	QKM54776	<i>Carollia</i>	<i>brevicauda</i>	M	Adult	Cotopaxi	Jardín de los sueños	-79.2045668	-0.8372	400	14.5	39.2	47.3	10.2	17.2	10.7
QCAZ18226	QKM54797	<i>Carollia</i>	<i>brevicauda</i>	F	Adult	Cotopaxi	San Cristóbal	-79.1532668	-0.8607	462	14	41.6	62	10.2	9	12
QCAZ18227	QKM54794	<i>Chiroderma</i>	<i>salvini</i>	F	Adult	Cotopaxi	Jardín de los sueños	-79.2045668	-0.8372	621	27	49.5	65.5	-	14.8	12.8
QCAZ18228	QKM54800	<i>Artibeus</i>	<i>ravus</i>	M	Subadult	Cotopaxi	Manguilita El Triunfo	-79.20735	-0.9117498	312	10.5	38.5	45.9	-	15.7	11
QCAZ18229	QKM54795	<i>Enchisthenes</i>	<i>hartii</i>	F	Adult	Cotopaxi	Jardín de los sueños	-79.2045668	-0.8372	573	18	40.5	51.3	-	15.4	9.3
QCAZ18230	QKM54777	<i>Glossophaga</i>	<i>soricina</i>	F	Adult	Cotopaxi	Jardín de los sueños	-79.2045668	-0.8372	395	9	35	44	5.4	13.1	9
QCAZ18233	QKM54807	<i>Choeroniscus</i>	<i>minor</i>	F	Adult	Cotopaxi	Jardín de los sueños	-79.2045668	-0.8372	495	8	35.1	41.4	5.5	10.5	9.3

QCAZ18236	QKM54804	<i>Lonchophylla</i>	<i>robusta</i>	M	Adult	Cotopaxi	Manguilita El Triunfo	-79.20735	-0.9117498	285	15	43.7	52.5	12.8	17	13.7
QCAZ18237	QKM54805	<i>Micronycteris</i>	<i>hirsuta</i>	F	Adult	Cotopaxi	Jardín de los sueños	-79.2045668	-0.8372	473	13.5	43.2	51	13.2	22.7	12.9
QCAZ18238	QKM54801	<i>Platyrrhinus</i>	<i>matapalensis</i>	M	Adult	Cotopaxi	Manguilita El Triunfo	-79.20735	-0.9117498	285	14	32.9	52.3	-	17	11.7
QCAZ18241	QKM54792	<i>Sturnira</i>	<i>luisi</i>	M	Adult	Cotopaxi	Guasaganda	-79.1468667	-0.7798167	481	21.5	41.8	56.6	-	15.9	10.8
QCAZ18245	NK298728	<i>Artibeus</i>	<i>literatus</i>	F	Adult	Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas	La Lorena	-79.139733	-0.2747998	577	80	74.2	105.5	-	20.4	17.8
QCAZ18246	NK298686	<i>Artibeus</i>	<i>aequatorialis</i>	M	Adult	Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas	Reserva Otongachi	-78.9518828	-0.3212998	856	46	65	89	-	22	14
QCAZ18273	NK298727	<i>Lonchophylla</i>	<i>concava</i>	F	Adult	Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas	La Lorena	-79.139733	-0.2747998	577	6.5	33.2	56.9	9.5	11.5	8.2
QCAZ18274	NK298732	<i>Lonchophylla</i>	<i>concava</i>	F	Adult	Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas	La Lorena	-79.139733	-0.2747998	577	7	34	58.6	11.3	14.4	10.4
QCAZ18280	NK298706	<i>Micronycteris</i>	<i>megalotis</i>	M	Adult	Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas	La Lorena	-79.139733	-0.2747998	577	5.5	36	49	12	20	10
QCAZ18284	NK298713	<i>Molossus</i>	<i>molossus</i>	M	Adult	Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas	La Lorena	-79.139733	-0.2747998	577	17	39	65	44	14	11
QCAZ18287	NK298712	<i>Molossus</i>	<i>molossus</i>	F	Adult	Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas	La Lorena	-79.139733	-0.2747998	577	22	42	69	44	15	12
QCAZ18288	NK298683	<i>Myotis</i>	<i>riparius</i>	M	Adult	Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas	Reserva Otongachi	-78.9518828	-0.3212998	856	4.5	35	46	35	14	7
QCAZ18292	NK298716	<i>Myotis</i>	<i>albescens</i>	F	Adult	Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas	Río Mulaute	-78.993183	-0.131917	549	5	37	52	33	15	9
QCAZ18293	NK298651	<i>Myotis</i>	<i>riparius</i>	F	Adult	Pichincha	Alambi	-78.680733	-0.030217	1479	5	36	46	37	14	7

QCAZ18297	NK298644	<i>Phyllostomus</i>	<i>discolor</i>	M	Adult	Pichincha	Alambi	-78.680733	-0.030217	1496	45	64	94	10	24	19
QCAZ18299	NK298679	<i>Platyrrhinus</i>	<i>nigellus</i>	M	Adult	Pichincha	Alambi	-78.680733	-0.030217	1492	28.5	79	75	-	18	14
QCAZ18306	NK298688	<i>Sturnira</i>	<i>bakeri</i>	F	Adult	Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas	Reserva Otongachi	-78.9518828	-0.3212998	856	14.5	42	61	-	16	13
QCAZ18307	NK298689	<i>Sturnira</i>	<i>bakeri</i>	M	Adult	Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas	Reserva Otongachi	-78.9518828	-0.3212998	856	22	43	66	-	18	12
QCAZ18308	NK298692	<i>Sturnira</i>	<i>bakeri</i>	M	Adult	Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas	Hacienda Tinalandia	-79.054433	-0.2979668	685	21.5	44	64	-	17	12
QCAZ18312	NK298640	<i>Sturnira</i>	<i>ludovici</i>	M	Adult	Pichincha	Alambi	-78.680733	-0.030217	1496	25	47	75	-	19	15
QCAZ18371	QKM54671	<i>Desmodus</i>	<i>rotundus</i>	F	Adult	Manabí	Las Tunas	-80.8152861	-1.6621917	11	36	60.5	68.8	-	20.3	15.6

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For Review Only

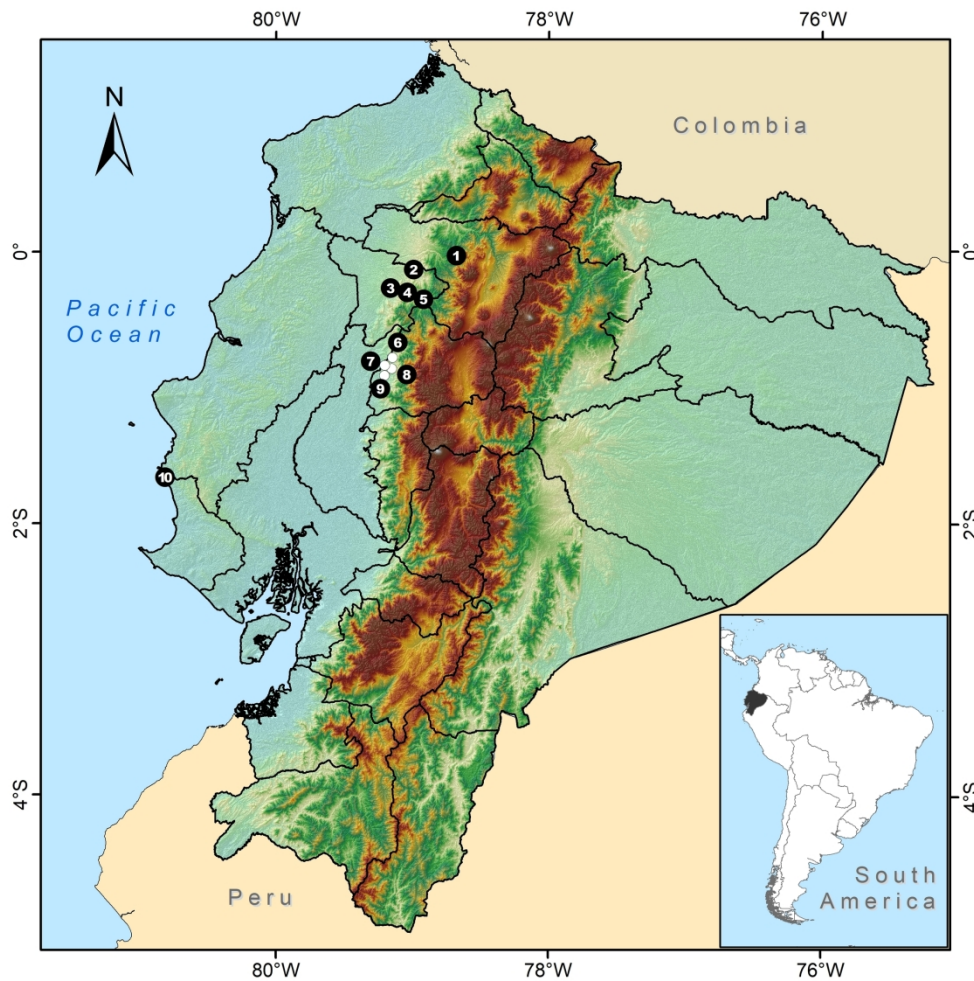


Figure 1. Geographical distribution of specimens used in this work. Sampling localities: Pichincha: 1) Alambi (Lon: -78.680733, Lat: -0.030217); Santo Domingo de Los Tsáchilas: 2) Río Mulaute (Lon: -78.993183, Lat: -0.131917); 3) La Lorena (Lon: -79.139733, Lat: -0.2747998); 4) Hacienda Tinalandia (Lon: -79.054433, Lat: -0.2979668); 5) Reserva Otongachi (Lon: -78.9518828, Lat: -0.3212998); Cotopaxi: 6) Guasaganda (Lon: -79.1468667, Lat: -0.7798167); 7) Jardín de los Sueños (Lon: -79.2045668, Lat: -0.8372); 8) San Cristóbal (Lon: -79.1532668, Lat: -0.8607); 9) Manguilita El Triunfo (Lon: -79.20735, Lat: -0.9117498); Manabí: 10) Las Tunas (Lon: -80.8152861, Lat: -1.6621917)

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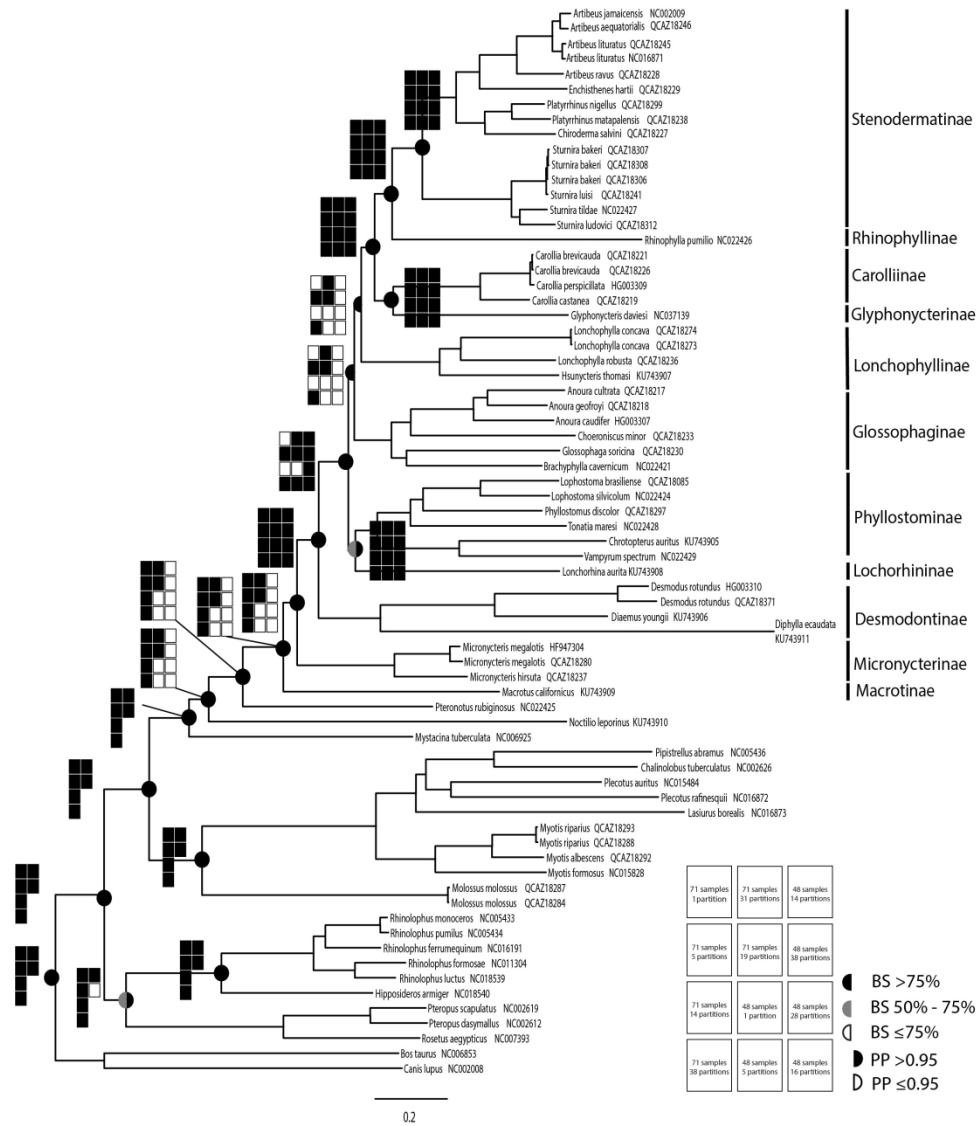


Figure 2: Phylogeny of Phyllostomidae based on complete mitochondrial genomes (nucleotide sequences). The tree represents the best Maximum Likelihood phylogeny inferring Phyllostomidae and other chiropteran lineages' relationships. The tree was reconstructed in RAXML under the GTR+GAMMA+I model using the Full outgroup data set (71 taxa, 14,703 nucleotides). Color filled semicircles on the nodes indicate ML bootstrap support (percentage) and Bayesian posterior probabilities (see inserted caption). The absence of a semicircle on the node indicates that it was not recovered by ML or Bayesian inferences. Each Navajo's Rug shows if the specified node was retrieved (black square) or not (white square) in different analyses performed (see inserted caption).

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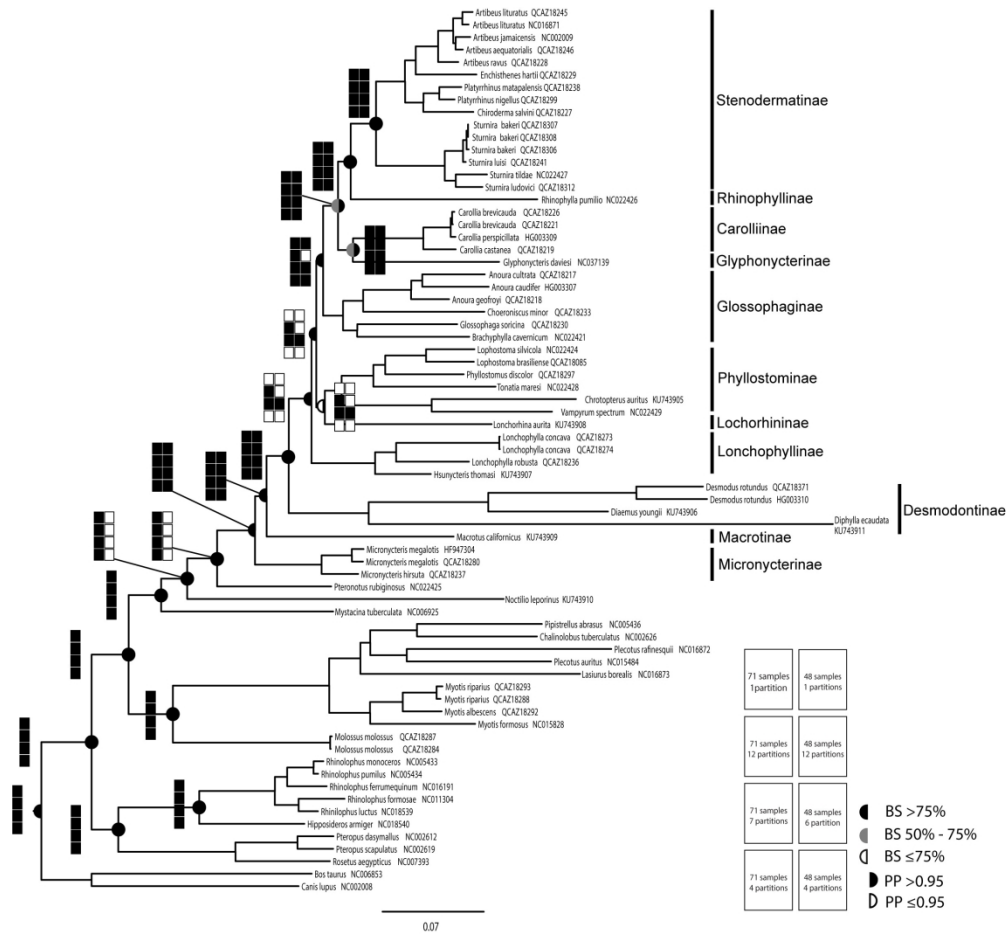


Figure S1: Phylogeny of Phyllostomidae based on mitochondrial genomes (amino acid sequences). The tree represents the best Maximum Likelihood phylogeny inferring Phyllostomidae and other chiropteran lineages' relationships. The tree was reconstructed in RAXML under the mtMAM and mtREV +I+G+F models using the

Full outgroup data set (71 taxa, 3,606 amino acids). Color filled semicircles on the nodes indicate ML bootstrap support (percentage) and Bayesian posterior probabilities (see inserted caption). The absence of a semicircle on the node indicates that it was not recovered by ML or Bayesian inferences. Each Navajo's Rug shows if the specified node was retrieved (black square) or not (white square) in different analyses performed (see inserted caption).

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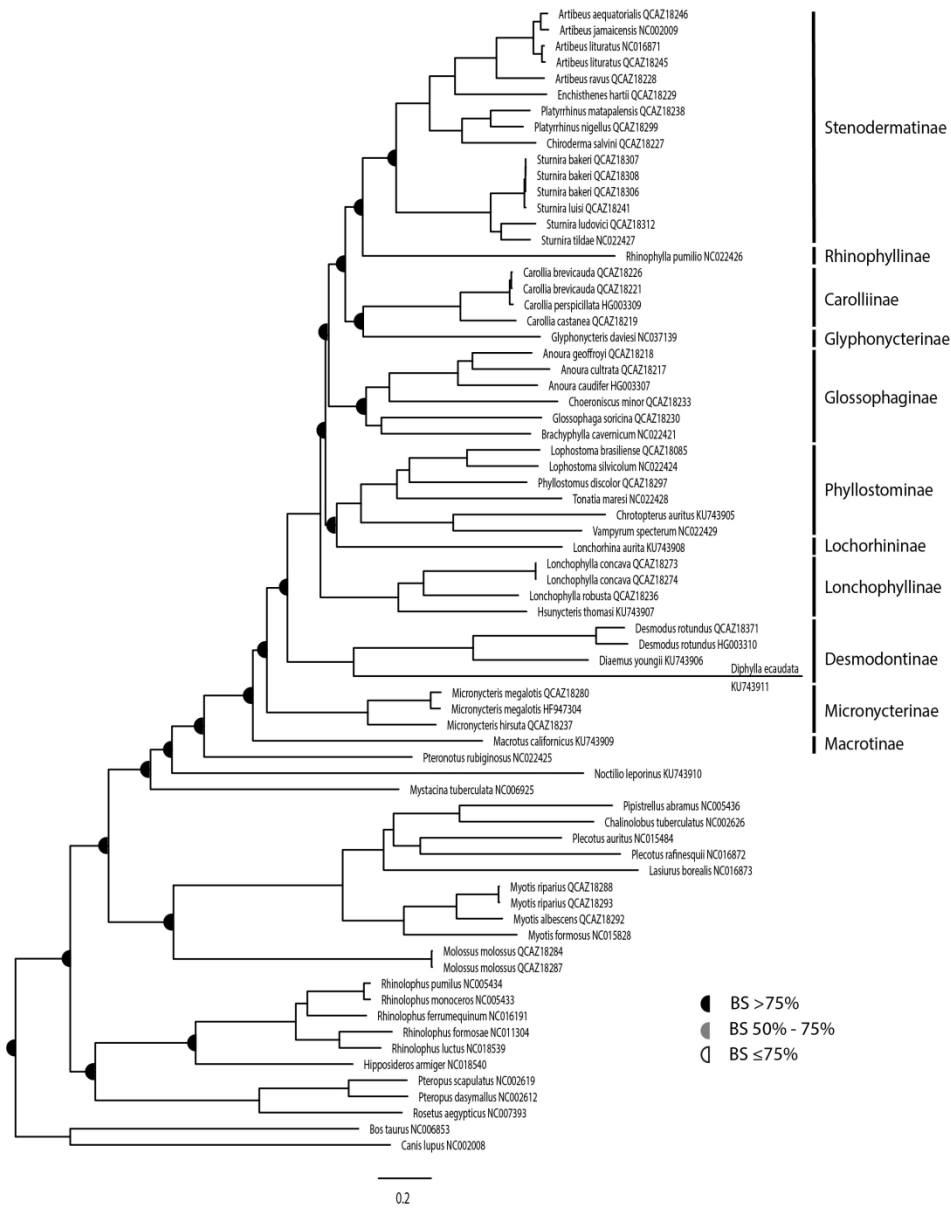


Figure S2: Phylogeny of Phyllostomidae based on the protein coding genes (CDS) from our full nucleotide data set using a 36-partition scheme. The tree was reconstructed in RAxML under the GTR+GAMMA+I model. Color filled semicircles on the nodes indicate ML bootstrap support (percentage; see inserted caption).

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