

## Project Update: September 2016

Winter is coming! And so are the bats! The lesser long-nosed Bat (*Leptonycteris yerbabuena*) is an emblematic species for the Pacific Mexican tropical dry forest and the Sonoran Desert. From Agaves to Saguaros, a big part of the emblematic floral community of these ecosystems depend on the bats for its survival. Thanks to the RSG, I was able to travel to the beautiful Pinacate Desert in spring. We capture a large number of bats in the cave and were able to obtain many of the needed samples for my project. My projects aims at identifying how the migration of the bats from central Mexico to south Arizona and the inherent changes in the food sources along the gradient affect the bats immune condition. While you are reading this, the bats have already made their way back south for the winter. After a successful spring season, I'm finalizing detail to meet the bats back in the south end of the migration gradient to collect more samples. So, wish me luck and I'll talk to you guys after the winter!



A non-reproductive male of *Leptonycteris yerbabuena* being examined



The Pinacate landscape after a long capturing night in the desert



How a successfully capture night looks