

---

# THIS BAT HELPS MAKE TEQUILA!

- The lesser long-nosed bat is a pollinating bat in the southwestern US and Mexico. They are about 23 grams and live around 12 years.
- Not all bats pollinate and not all of them eat nectar.
- Agave is a century plant that blooms every 10 to 15 years and is the source of the distilling liquid used to make tequila.
- Lesser long-nosed bats cross pollinate the agave at night while feeding on its nectar.
- Without the cross pollination, agave can't spread across its territory and grow, limiting the amount of agave plants available to make tequila.
- Some agave farmers purposefully let a portion of their plants bloom to allow the bats to pollinate them instead of hand pollinating all their plants.



---

Audience: I intended to write this for young to mid life adults interested in learning about bats and their role in the ecosystem. Obviously, this is not aimed towards children as children don't enjoy a good tequila. I could see this as a museum plaque.

Intended purpose: I want to educate the public on bat pollination and how that can affect you and me. Many people see bats as pests, and I want to show that they are useful creatures in the ecosystem that can benefit people.

#### Bibliography:

Batcon.org. 2021. Bat Conservation International; [accessed 2021 Apr 26]. <https://www.batcon.org/article/long-nosed-bats-and-agaves-the-tequila-connection/>

National Geographic. 2021. Lesser long-nosed bat. National Geographic; [accessed 2021 Apr 26]. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/facts/lesser-long-nosed-bat>

US Fish and Wildlife Service. 2019. Lesser long-nosed bat. Featured pollinator; [accessed 2021 Apr 12]. [https://www.fws.gov/pollinators/Features/Lesser\\_long-nosed\\_bat.htm](https://www.fws.gov/pollinators/Features/Lesser_long-nosed_bat.htm)