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3 **1 Running title**

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6 3 Ecology of zoonotic infectious diseases in bats: current knowledge and future directions

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43 **27 Importance of the paper to the lay reader**

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 - Bats are hosts to a range of pathogens, some of which are known to infect and cause disease

47 30 in humans and domestic animals. Human activities that increase exposure to bats will likely

48 31 increase the opportunity for these infections to spill over from bats to humans in the future.

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 - Understanding the impacts of anthropogenic changes on infection dynamics within bat

50 33 populations is necessary to predict and prevent human infections of bat origin. However, this

51 34 initially requires understanding both bat populations and the dynamics of infections within

52 35 them.

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3 36 • We propose that a combination of field and laboratory studies are needed to create data-
4 37 driven mathematical models to elucidate aspects of bat ecology that are most critical to the
5 38 dynamics of emerging bat viruses.
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10 **Summary**

11 Bats are hosts to a range of zoonotic and potentially zoonotic pathogens. Human activities that
12 42 increase exposure to bats will likely increase the opportunity for infections to spill over in the future.
13 43 Ecological drivers of pathogen spillover and emergence in novel hosts, including humans, involve a
14 44 complex mixture of processes and understanding these complexities may aid in predicting spillover.
15 45 In particular, only once the pathogen and host ecologies are known can the impacts of anthropogenic
16 46 changes be fully appreciated. Cross- disciplinary approaches are required to understand how host and
17 47 pathogen ecology interact. Bats differ from other sylvatic disease reservoirs due to their unique and
18 48 diverse lifestyles, including their ability to fly, often highly gregarious social structures, long life
19 49 spans and low fecundity rates. We highlight how these traits may affect infection dynamics and how
20 50 both host and pathogen traits may interact to affect infection dynamics. We identify key questions
21 51 relating to the ecology of infectious diseases in bats and propose that a combination of field and
22 52 laboratory studies are needed to create data-driven mechanistic models to elucidate those aspects of
23 53 bat ecology that are most critical to the dynamics of emerging bat viruses. If commonalities can be
24 54 found, then predicting the dynamics of newly emerging diseases may be possible. This modelling
25 55 approach will be particularly important in scenarios when population surveillance data are unavailable
26 56 and when it is unclear which aspects of host ecology are driving infection dynamics.
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36 **1. Introduction**

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40 60 Emerging infectious diseases in wildlife threaten global biodiversity and public health (Daszak et al.,
41 61 2000). Bats can host a range of zoonotic and potentially zoonotic pathogens. In addition to rabies
42 62 (RABV) and other lyssaviruses (e.g. Kuzmin et al., 2008b, Streicker et al., 2010), bats have been
43 63 identified as the likely reservoir for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) coronavirus (CoV)
44 64 (Li et al., 2005, Cheng et al., 2007, Vijaykrishna et al., 2007), Hendra (HeV) (Halpin et al., 2000),
45 65 Nipah (NiV) (Chua et al., 2002, Hsu et al., 2004, Reynes et al., 2005), Ebola (EBOV) (Leroy et al.,
46 66 2005) and Marburg (MARV) viruses (Monath, 1999, Peterson et al., 2004a, Peterson et al., 2004b,
47 67 Towner et al., 2007). Most recently, a new distinct lineage of influenza A virus has been discovered in
48 68 little yellow-shouldered bats (*Sturnira lilium*, family Phyllostomidae) in the Americas (Tong et al.,
49 69 2012) and a range of paramyxoviruses in bats from four continents (Drexler et al., 2012). Given the
50 70 potentially devastating effects of these emerging diseases on public health and wildlife conservation
51 71 (e.g. EBOV and gorillas; Bermejo et al., 2006), it is crucial that we improve our understanding of how
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3 72 bat ecology may influence disease dynamics and their propensity to serve as reservoirs for emerging
4 73 pathogens (Messenger et al., 2003, Calisher et al., 2006, Wong et al., 2007).
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6 74 Ecological drivers of pathogen spillover and emergence in novel hosts, including humans, can be a
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8 75 complex mixture of processes (Lloyd-Smith et al., 2005, Lloyd-Smith et al., 2009). Clearly, human
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10 76 activities that increase exposure to bats will increase the opportunity for infections to be transmitted
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12 77 between bats and humans, or to intermediate hosts such as pets and livestock. However, our
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14 78 knowledge of how and why emerging pathogens spill over from bats is limited, and improved
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16 79 understanding of these processes will require cross- disciplinary approaches. Traits of the pathogen
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18 80 and the human-pathogen interactions at the cellular level, such as evolutionary mutation rates and
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20 81 receptor-binding affinity, are important when trying to understand spillover and emergence (Pulliam
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22 82 and Dushoff, 2009, Pulliam, 2008, Moya et al., 2004). However, these traits are proximate causes, and
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24 83 the ultimate drivers of spillover and emergence are ecological (Lloyd-Smith et al., 2009). Therefore,
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26 84 understanding host ecology and elements of the human-animal interface are essential in the context of
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28 85 pathogen spillover events. For example, host population structure and seasonality may affect both the
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30 86 dynamics and the virulence of infection in the host population, which may in turn affect the risk of
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32 87 spillover. Attempts to understand how host ecology impacts the dynamics of infection are relatively
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34 88 few in wild animal populations and fewer still for bat populations, and attempts at understanding how
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36 89 infections themselves evolve to persist in wildlife hosts with different ecologies are rarer still. To
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38 90 understand the role of host ecology in disease dynamics, we recommend combining field and
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40 91 experimental methods iteratively to parameterize mechanistic models, as well as integrative modelling
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42 92 in a comparative context, between species, population cohorts and pathogens (George et al., 2011,
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44 93 Plowright et al., 2008, Plowright et al., 2011); important also in this context is the use of models to
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46 94 prioritise and plan field studies (Restif et al., in review). Only once host and pathogen ecologies are
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48 95 united, can reliable predictions be made regarding ecological drivers of spatiotemporal infection
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50 96 dynamics and spillover (Keeling and Rohani, 2008).
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54 98 Infection dynamics in bats are likely influenced by the unique ecology of this diverse group of
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56 99 mammals. There are several ways in which bats differ from other small mammals, including potential
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58 100 for rapid and widespread dispersal, highly gregarious social structures, long life spans and high
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60 101 survival, with low fecundity (Calisher et al., 2006). The majority of the studies on bat infections to
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103 102 date have focused on bats and zoonotic viral infections, but the ecological generalities may be similar
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105 103 among bacterial (Bai et al., 2011, Kosoy et al., 2010) and fungal infections of bats (e.g. *Histoplasma*
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107 104 *capsulatum*, *Geomyces destructans*) (Taylor et al., 2005, Puechmaille et al., 2011, Foley et al., 2011,
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109 105 Frick et al., 2010, Blehert et al., 2009). Although widely recognized, few studies have involved
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111 106 explicit hypothesis testing regarding pathogen associations and the unique ecological characteristics
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113 107 of bats.
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3 109 In this paper we review how interactions between the ecologies of the host(s) and pathogen drive the
4 110 infection dynamics within host populations, and highlight the importance of considering both when
5 111 investigating spillover events and dynamics. However, there is currently a paucity of studies on the
6 112 ecology of bat infectious diseases, sometimes leading us to reference some studies in multiple
7 113 contexts. Therefore, we end each section with a summary of the key unanswered questions relating to
8 114 the ecology of bats and their infections, then make suggestions as to how future research could
9 115 address these questions.
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15 117 **2. Host ecological strategies driving bat infection dynamics**

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17 119 Many aspects of wildlife biology are strongly seasonal and the ecological strategies that hosts use for
18 120 coping with seasonal variability may influence disease transmission (Altizer et al., 2006) and
19 121 emergence. Seasonal host dynamics may be coupled to disease dynamics in, and emergence from,
20 122 bats by influencing contact rates and susceptibility of the population to infection. Major mechanisms
21 123 for coping with seasonality in temperate zone bats include restricted birthing periods, migration, use
22 124 of coloniality, and torpor. Each of these strategies may affect population density and contact rates,
23 125 thus leading to spatiotemporal variation in infection dynamics. Prevalence of rabies viruses (RABV),
24 126 CoV, and astroviruses (AstV) in bats have been reported to exhibit seasonal dynamics (Mondul et al.,
25 127 2003, Drexler et al., 2011, Patyk et al., 2012). Changes in the seasonal timing of RABV prevalence
26 128 among bats in particular appears to correlate with ecological characteristics of the host species
27 129 (George et al., 2011). However, mechanistic explanations of how host ecological strategies for coping
28 130 with seasonal variability influence infection dynamics in bats are largely lacking.
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43 133 **a. Host reproduction and survival as major drivers of bat disease dynamics.**

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45 135 Many species of bats in both temperate and tropical zones exhibit highly synchronized parturition
46 136 (Porter and Wilkinson, 2001, Heideman et al., 1992, Mutere, 1968, Greiner et al., 2011, Bernard and
47 137 Cumming, 1997, Fleming et al., 1972, Racey and Entwistle, 2000), which can dramatically alter
48 138 population contact rates and susceptibilities for short timeframes. The influx of susceptible young is a
49 139 crucial driver of infection dynamics (Anderson and May, 1979). However, the role and strength of
50 140 different host reproduction strategies on disease dynamics is as yet unknown and only rare examples
51 141 exist in the literature. Simulations of spatial models of raccoon rabies in the USA, a relatively well
52 142 studied system, suggest that increasing seasonality in births as latitude increases leads to increasingly
53 143 asynchronous rabies dynamics (Duke-Sylvester et al., 2011). Hosseini et al. (2004) were able to
54 144 demonstrate that seasonal breeding of house finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), along with seasonal
55 145 social aggregation and partial immunity, was key in explaining the specific semi-annual pattern of
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3 146 prevalence seen in *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* conjunctivitis. Many bat species also show marked
4 147 differences between the sexes in distribution and behaviour during the warmer months, including the
5 148 use of torpor (discussed below) and degree of coloniality (Cryan et al., 2000, Senior et al., 2005,
6 149 Weller et al., 2009). Sex differences in behaviour and distribution of bats during times of year when
7 150 the potential for disease transmission is greatest may also have important implications for disease
8 151 dynamics, although typically behaviour and population demographic data exist for only a single sex
9 152 (Kerth et al., 2011, George et al., 2011, Weller et al., 2009).
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15 154 Unlike other emerging diseases of bat origin, there is considerable background field and laboratory
16 155 information on bat RABV; however even with this relative wealth of information, it was only recently
17 156 that attempts were made to understand how host ecological strategies influence infection maintenance
18 157 (Dimitrov et al., 2008, Dimitrov and Hallam, 2008, George et al., 2011). Turmelle et al. (2010a)
19 158 showed empirically contrasting temporal patterns of RABV exposure in *Tadarida brasiliensis* at
20 159 different types of roosts during the reproduction season, which suggested increased RABV exposure
21 160 after parturition in cave colonies. Specifically, cave colonies in this system are known to harbor up to
22 161 a million individual bats (Betke et al., 2008), mostly reproductively active females, leading to a short
23 162 window of time where population size doubles following parturition, and contact rates between adult
24 163 and newborn bats are elevated during early lactation. Individual- and roost-level variation in
25 164 physiological stress was also demonstrated in this system (Allen et al., 2011), although direct impacts
26 165 of stress on susceptibility or immune response of bats to RABV or other pathogen infections have not
27 166 been well-characterized to date (but see Smith, 1981).
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37 168 In modelling RABV in big brown bats (*Eptesicus fuscus*) in Colorado, George et al. (2011) found that
38 169 interaction between the timing of the annual birth pulse and the RABV incubation period (extending
39 170 through torpor) was important for RABV perpetuation in the bat population. Host survival rates were
40 171 important, particularly during hibernation when lower mortality rates facilitated host population
41 172 persistence, as was the seasonal pulse of susceptible juveniles entering the population in summer
42 173 (O'Shea et al., 2010, O'Shea et al., 2011). Thus, George et al (2011) were able to show that
43 174 seasonality in both births and deaths were important factors in RABV persistence in *E. fuscus*.
44 175 Plowright et al. (2011) examined the transmission dynamics of HeV in Australian Pteropid bats using
45 176 a mathematical model parameterised with field and laboratory data. The authors speculated in models
46 177 of HeV in Australia that it was population connectivity and immunity that played a key role in the
47 178 infection dynamics, rather than a simple influx of naïve young. It is noteworthy that incorporating
48 179 waning maternal immunity into models describing HeV-*Pteropus* interactions provided a better fit to
49 180 the data, therefore demonstrating that not only does the influx of naïve young affect disease dynamics,
50 181 but that the rate of inflow of susceptible hosts is important in driving pathogen dynamics.
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3 183 A 3-year study of CoV, AstV, and adenoviruses (AdV) in a colony of *Myotis myotis* in Germany
4 184 demonstrated that RNA viruses (CoV and AstV), but not DNA viruses (AdV), were strongly
5 185 amplified during colony formation and after parturition, and that bat population and virus dynamics
6 186 were correlated (Drexler et al., 2011). This study also suggested that the breeding success of the
7 187 colony was not affected by CoV or AstV and that these viruses had seemingly little pathogenic
8 188 influence on bats, although the lack of individual tracking and follow-up precludes conclusive
9 189 evidence to support this idea. However, Drexler et al. (2011) concluded that the correlation between
10 190 bat and virus dynamics suggested that both coloniality and a birth pulse of susceptible hosts may be
11 191 important for infection dynamics of RNA viruses.
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18 193 **b. Migration and coloniality as major drivers of bat disease dynamics.**

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21 195 Different species of bats manifest distinctive differences in both migratory behavior (e.g. long
22 196 distance vs. restricted local movements) and population density within colonies (e.g. hundreds per
23 197 square meter vs. solitary or very small groups), yet the impact of such differences in terms of disease
24 198 dynamics have not been well studied. The majority of bats in temperate zones also cycle between
25 199 summer maternity roosts and winter hibernacula, and population density, sex and species composition
26 200 can vary widely between these two types of seasonal roosting aggregations. Indeed, the effects of
27 201 often very different behaviours between male and female bats (Weller et al., 2009) has yet to be
28 202 explored in relation to infection dynamics, and the role of increased contact during mating seasons has
29 203 received little attention to date. Tropical, non-hibernating bats may use migration and coloniality for
30 204 other reasons, for example, to track the seasonal availability of fruit and flowers (Richter and
31 205 Cumming, 2006, Thomas, 1983). As fission-fusion social structures are increasingly being recognised
32 206 in bats (Kerth et al., 2011, Storz et al., 2001), these may interact with other life history traits to have a
33 207 profound impact on pathogen transmission rates and persistence.
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43 209 Seasonal variation in the prevalence of infection is likely impacted by changes in density during
44 210 migration or colony formation, which affects contact rates and thus disease dynamics (Altizer et al.,
45 211 2011). Some of the clearest examples of how seasonality and “coloniality” may affect and drive
46 212 infection dynamics come from human systems. The episodic dynamics of measles epidemics in the
47 213 absence of vaccination, for example, driven by school terms (Finkenstädt, & Grenfell, 1998,
48 214 Finkenstädt et al., 1998) or fluctuating agrarian systems (Ferrari et al., 2008, Bharti et al., 2011)
49 215 suggest changes in contact rates of susceptible hosts may be key in driving infection dynamics. As
50 216 mentioned, Hosseini et al. (2004) also demonstrated that seasonality in coloniality was important for
51 217 predicting *Mycoplasma* dynamics in house finches. Though not zoonotic, in bat systems *G.*
52 218 *destructans* dynamics and the current epidemic in North America appear to be especially driven by
53 219 coloniality and migration (Frick et al., 2010). Comparative studies may help to elucidate the impact of
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3 220 variation in seasonal ecologies among or within species affected by the same species or variant of
4 221 pathogen. For example, the seasonality in aggregation and population dynamics of big brown bats in
5 222 relation to maintenance of RABV in temperate Colorado (George et al., 2011) could differ in warm
6 223 temperate and tropical areas where the host species also occurs (Kurta and Baker, 1990, Turmelle et
7 224 al., 2011).

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11 226 Assuming a metapopulation model of connectivity, models of HeV predicted that decreased migration
12 227 of *Pteropus* bats in Australia, possibly due to urbanisation and changes in food availability, could
13 228 influence the intensity and duration of HeV epidemics (Plowright et al., 2011). Decreased migration
14 229 could give rise to more intense but shorter HeV outbreaks after local viral reintroduction. The
15 230 mechanism proposed for such an increase in epidemic intensity was that decreased bat migratory
16 231 behaviour could lead to a decline in transmission between colonies and, therefore, reduced inter-
17 232 colony exposures and resulting immunity within colonies. This proposed loss of immunity leads to
18 233 increased epidemic size and more rapid fade-out once infection was re-introduced into a susceptible
19 234 colony. Thus, reduced migration and population connectivity was suggested as a mechanism that
20 235 could increase the amplitude of the seasonal outbreaks and increase the probability of spillover. This
21 236 relationship may be relevant to a variety of bat-associated pathogens, where hosts exist as a
22 237 metapopulation and humans alter connectivity of populations.

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24 239 **c. Use of torpor as a major driver of bat disease dynamics and seasonality**

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26 241 Many species of bats are facultative heterotherms capable of using deep torpor during periods of
27 242 physiological stress to offset energy and water deficits (Humphries et al., 2002, Speakman and
28 243 Thomas, 2003). For tropical species, reliance on short term and shallow torpor to offset energy
29 244 deficits is less well described and may be more prevalent than is currently appreciated (Coburn and
30 245 Geiser, 1998, Stawski et al., 2009, Stawski and Geiser, 2010). The role of torpor in infection
31 246 dynamics is largely unstudied. Species of bats that differ in their use of migration also often differ in
32 247 their use of torpor. Torpor typically reduces pathogen replication rates (Sulkin et al., 1960, Luis and
33 248 Hudson, 2006) and hence lengthens incubation periods (Bouma et al., 2010), and prevents host
34 249 contact; these in turn influence the seasonal force of infection (the rate at which susceptible
35 250 individuals contract infection). Additionally, it likely provides an efficient mechanism for
36 251 overwintering of some infections.

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38 253 Multidisciplinary studies, using both experimental data and integrative mathematical models can be
39 254 used to determine the importance of temporal changes in torpor use in driving temporal changes in
40 255 infection prevalence, as was done by George et al (2011). We argue that the effects of both torpor and
41 256 changes in contact rates during migration and colony formation might only be differentiated by using

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3 257 mechanistic process models. George et al (2011) found a clear indication for torpor being a key factor
4 258 in allowing perpetuation of RABV through the hibernation period, through prolonged incubation
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6 259 period and reduced mortality; this enabled RABV infection to persist in the population until
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8 260 susceptibles from the annual birth pulse could become infected and continue the cycle. However,
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10 261 RABV is also capable of perpetuating in a variety of bat hosts that are not known to utilize torpor, and
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12 262 even the same host species under varied ecological circumstances (i.e., warmer tropical climates),
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14 263 which begs the question of which factors allow RABV to avoid population fade-out under these
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16 264 circumstances (see Dimitrov et al., 2007, Dimitrov et al., 2008).
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19 266 An interesting but non-zoonotic example of the importance of torpor on pathogen dynamics is white-
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21 267 nose syndrome (WNS) in bats. The associated fungus *G. destructans* has been detected in 19 US
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23 268 states and two Canadian provinces, and WNS disease has been linked to the deaths of more than five
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25 269 million bats in North America (Frick et al., 2010, Blehert et al., 2009). The causative psychrophilic
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27 270 (cold-loving) fungus colonizes the skin causing devastating lesions by eroding, digesting, and
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29 271 replacing living skin tissues, with the large surface areas of bat wings being the primary target of
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31 272 infection (Cryan et al., 2010). Hibernation depresses all physiological processes, including
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33 273 immunological processes (Bouma et al., 2010), and thus during deep torpor *G. destructans*, which
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35 274 grows only at temperatures less than 20°C, is able to replicate more efficiently than would be possible
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37 275 in a bat that has aroused or does not utilize torpor to the same degree. Thus, though WNS may show
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39 276 the opposite pattern to RNA viruses, it emphasizes the potential importance of torpor on infection
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41 277 dynamics.
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44 279 • Future directions for research to address the role of host ecological strategies in driving bat
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46 280 infection dynamics
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49 282 Longitudinal infection and demographic data are required to understand how birth, survival,
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51 283 coloniality, migration and torpor affect infection dynamics within bat populations. Frequently
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53 284 researchers monitor one part of the process, such as survival (Papadatou et al., 2011), infection
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55 285 (Drexler et al., 2011, Field et al., 2011), or seroprevalence (Breed et al, 2011), however, Hayman et al.
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57 286 (2012a, 2012b) concurrently monitored each in *Eidolon helvum* African fruit bats, and George et al.
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59 287 (2011) and Plowright et al. (2011) synthesized demographic data with infection-related data from
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61 288 field and laboratory studies to give insights into potential mechanisms that drive infection dynamics.
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63 289 Capture-recapture data should be collected to allow estimation of both demographic parameters
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65 290 (Hayman et al., 2012b, Papadatou et al., 2011, O'Shea et al., 2011), while age-specific infection data
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67 291 are particularly useful because they allow such estimation of factors such as force of infection
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69 292 (Hayman et al., 2012a). Studies should also attempt to capture the seasonal variation, such as pre-,
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71 293 during- and post-parturition and migration or hibernation seasons, and consider the potential effects of

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3 294 often very different migratory behaviours between male and female bats of some species (Weller et
4 295 al., 2009). In all cases, however, longitudinal sampling of individuals in experimental and/or captive
5 296 studies may be required to interpret field related data. For example, Sulkin et al. (1960) demonstrated
6 297 that torpor prevents viral replication for the duration of hibernation, and, along with describing
7 298 antibody titre decays, Sohayati et al. (2011) demonstrate that recrudescence of NiV may occur in bats,
8 299 which may be used to interpret field data. Statistical and mechanistic models, such as susceptible-
9 300 infected-recovered (SIR) based models (see Box 1), can then be used on these data to determine
10 301 which factors best predict infection dynamics. Comparison of mechanistic models, using careful
11 302 statistical approaches to determine model fitting (Restif et al., in review), may be required to ascertain
12 303 if seasonal birth pulses or changes in contact rates, modelled as step functions (e.g. Duke-Sylvester et
13 304 al., 2011) or seasonal forcing (e.g. Hosseini et al., 2004) for example, drive infection dynamics. Meta-
14 305 population models may be required to capture all aspects of the system (e.g. Plowright et al., 2011),
15 306 but must also take into account what is observed in small isolated populations (Peel et al., 2012).
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24 308 **3. Multispecies, multipathogen dynamics**

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26 310 Very few studies in any wildlife system have adequately described either multi-host pathogen
27 311 dynamics, or multi-pathogen dynamics in a single host species. This is hardly surprising given the
28 312 complexities involved in understanding single pathogen-single host dynamics. However, there are
29 313 important studies that suggest both multi-host and pathogen dynamics are important in other non-bat
30 314 systems, and empirical data that suggest these situations may occur in bat infection systems. Through
31 315 analysis of time series data, Telfer et al. (2010) demonstrated statistically that in a parasite
32 316 community, including a virus, protozoan and two bacteria, within individual field voles (*Microtus*
33 317 *agrestis*), risk of infection was altered by concurrent infection to a greater extent than by age or
34 318 season. Lello et al. (2004) demonstrated that, in a rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) population, gut
35 319 helminth community parasites either compete or exist in mutualistic relationships. Few studies have
36 320 considered multiple infections in bats. Mühlendorfer et al. (2011) detected infections in 12% of 486 bats
37 321 from 19 European bat species, detecting co-infection with herpesviruses in 5 bats, but were unable to
38 322 infer much from this study, based as it was on opportunistic sampling.
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49 324 From a multi-host community perspective, Davies and Pedersen (2008) found that host-relatedness
50 325 and geographic range overlap were significant predictors of pathogen sharing among primates. Some
51 326 viruses, notably RABV, are promiscuous, infecting multiple host species. Streicker et al. (2010)
52 327 demonstrated that although RABV variants predominantly circulate within single host species, they
53 328 are able to spill over into other species. Similar to Davies and Pedersen (2008), Streicker et al. (2010)
54 329 documented highly asymmetrical patterns of cross-species RABV transmission in the North American
55 330 bat fauna, with host-relatedness and geographic range overlap being the strongest predictors of cross-
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3 331 species transmission, thus also suggesting an important influence of host sympatry. Whether these
4 332 factors affect cross-species transmission of other lyssaviruses within Chiroptera, or from bats to other
5 333 mammals, is not known, because isolations are often few and serological findings may be due to
6 334 cross-reactivity between related species or variants, complicating interpretation (e.g. Wright et al.,
7 335 2010). European bat lyssaviruses 1 and 2 (EBLV-1, EBLV-2) appear to show a very narrow host
8 336 range in Europe. EBLV-1 circulates in Serotine bats (*Eptesicus serotinus*) and EBLV-2 in
9 337 Daubenton's bat (*Myotis daubentonii*); this host fidelity is, however, not complete, as the first
10 338 isolation of EBLV-2 was from a Pond bat (*Myotis dasycneme*) and in Spain EBLV-1 sequences have
11 339 been recovered from several bat species (Amengual et al., 2007, Serra-Cobo et al., 2002). The
12 340 importance of cross-species transmission events in seasonally changing communities may vary with
13 341 respect to pathogen or variants of a pathogen, but is not really clear for any system. In some cases,
14 342 infection cycles may be maintained in co-roosting species without cross-species transmission. For
15 343 example, Kuzmin et al. (2010) discovered that Commerson's leaf-nosed bat (*Hipposideros*
16 344 *commersoni*) is a possible reservoir of Shimoni bat virus (SHIBV, a lyssavirus), while Egyptian fruit
17 345 bats (*Rousettus aegyptiacus*) and *Miniopterus* spp. bats in the same caves were seropositive against
18 346 Lagos bat virus (LBV) and West Caucasian bat virus (WCBV) (Kuzmin et al., 2008), thus suggesting
19 347 that at least for these lyssaviruses, infections may circulate among specific host species and
20 348 transmission may be minimal among sympatric bats. Moreover, Cui et al. (2007) reported clustering
21 349 of CoV sequences from geographically separated *Vespertilionidae* bats of the same species, even for
22 350 co-roosting bats. Coronaviruses from *Rhinolophidae* bats, however, did not share this feature and
23 351 appear to have undergone a number of host shifts.

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37 353 • Future directions for research to address the role of multiple hosts in infection dynamics and
38 354 multiple pathogens in infection dynamics
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41 356 Multi-parasite, multi-host based research programmes, following the approach described above in
42 357 section 2 are obviously needed in this area. Particular care is needed to consider the markedly reduced
43 358 statistical power available when considering the dynamics of co-infections and modelling to help plan
44 359 empirical data collection would be particularly beneficial for such studies (Restif *et al.*, in review).
45 360 These studies could particularly benefit from community ecology approaches, testing for interspecific
46 361 interactions, such as described by Telfer et al. (2010). Additionally, more detailed molecular
47 362 techniques could be incorporated that tease out cross-species transmission events (e.g. Streicker et al.,
48 363 2010, Cui et al., 2007) and infection dynamics (e.g. Drexler et al., 2011).

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56 366 **4. Host ecological strategies as drivers of pathogen virulence**
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3 368 Factors relating to the use of torpor and migration, as well as spatial structure, may select for different
4 369 optimal levels of virulence in bats, which are long-lived and may acquire immunity to diseases such
5 370 as RABV (Turmelle et al. 2010b). Intra-host pathogen replication is generally very temperature
6 371 dependent and so seasonal torpor usually suspends it (Sadler and Enright, 1959, Sulkin et al., 1960,
7 372 Luis and Hudson, 2006). Thus, species and sex differences in torpor behavior may affect the
8 373 coevolution of pathogen variants, and their transmission rates and generation times (i.e. lineage birth
9 374 and death processes). Boots et al. (2004) showed theoretically how large shifts in virulence may
10 375 occur in pathogen populations. They modelled infection in long-lived species which acquire immunity
11 376 following infection, and as a result of a bi-stability in evolutionary dynamics caused by the host's
12 377 local contact or social population structure, large shifts in virulence could be predicted (Boots et al.,
13 378 2004). Furthermore, Boots and Sasaki (1999) demonstrated that greater potential for long-distance
14 379 spread of the pathogen can increase virulence by reducing local selective pressure on the pathogen by
15 380 exhausting the supply of susceptible hosts from a population. More work, both theoretical and
16 381 empirical, is required to understand these phenomena in natural host populations. Gandon (2004) used
17 382 theoretical models to predict the effect of multiple hosts on infection virulence. Interestingly,
18 383 Gandon's work predicts that if an infection adapts to the most abundant host, then it may well be
19 384 maladapted to other, less frequent hosts, and this maladaptation may lead to avirulence or
20 385 hypervirulence in the new or less common host. Thus, decreased inter-species transmission leads to
21 386 pathogen adaptation to a more abundant host species, whereas increased inter-species transmission
22 387 leads to more generalist virulence strategies. These theoretical findings may be especially interesting
23 388 for studies of bats, due to the very large colony sizes that some bats can reach.
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26 390 Despite these theoretical studies, there is currently little empirical evidence for bat host ecology
27 391 affecting pathogen virulence. The best example comes from RABV, where up to 30 different lineages
28 392 of bat RABV may exist in the U.S. (Messenger et al., 2002, Streicker et al., 2010) and it appears that
29 393 different bats maintain host-specific RABV variants within populations (Streicker et al., 2010,
30 394 Shankar et al., 2005). Following the control of canine rabies, the majority of indigenously-acquired
31 395 human rabies infections in the US are attributable to RABV variants associated with bats (Messenger
32 396 et al., 2003, Messenger et al., 2002). It is unclear whether this mortality from bat rabies is from
33 397 unrecognized exposure (e.g., humans being bitten during sleep and so not obtaining post exposure
34 398 prophylaxis) or is due to differences in properties of RABV variants; however some data are
35 399 suggestive of the latter. Most human rabies deaths in the U.S. during the past decade are linked to
36 400 variants associated with the silver-haired bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*; almost exclusively this
37 401 species in the western US) and *Perimyotis subflavus*, the tricolored bat (Franka et al., 2006,
38 402 Messenger et al., 2003, Krebs et al., 2000b, Krebs et al., 2000a). In most cases of human rabies
39 403 associated with bat RABVs, there is no definitive bite history (Rupprecht et al., 2002). The high
40 404 proportion (74%) of human rabies cases attributable to bat RABV variants cannot be explained by a

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3 405 higher frequency of exposure to these species, as they tend to be non-synanthropic. Two hypotheses
4 406 have been proposed to account for this phenomenon: 1) the RABV variants associated with *L.*
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6 407 *noctivagans* and *P. subflavus* are widespread among bat populations and moving through undetected
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8 408 host reservoirs; 2) these variants are more infectious than others. Streicker et al. (2010) provided
9 409 evidence that neither variant dominates spillover infections into other bat hosts, as indicated by the
10 410 relatively low proportion of cross- species infections detected with these RABV variants. Concerning
11 411 the latter hypothesis, laboratory studies suggested higher *in vitro* pathogenicity and neuroinvasiveness
12 412 of the variant associated with *L. noctivagans* than in a variant isolated from carnivores (Morimoto et
13 413 al., 1996, Dietzschold et al., 2000, Faber et al., 2004), however further studies are required because of
14 414 the uncertain host origin of one of the viruses isolated from a human case (Dr. I. Kuzmin, *personal*
15 415 *communication*). However, studies have not adequately investigated comparative pathogenicity *in*
16 416 *vivo* in bats relative to the diversity of bat RABV variants that persist naturally (but see Turmelle et
17 417 al., 2009).

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24 419 *Lasiorycteris noctivagans* belongs to a unique group of long-distance latitudinal migrants that roost in
25 420 trees throughout the year (“tree bats”). Ecological strategies of tree bats differ from other bats in
26 421 North America and likely drive RABV dynamics in unique ways. Although not dominant RABV
27 422 variants, Streicker et al. (2010) show a propensity for tree bats to asymmetrically infect other bat hosts
28 423 with RABV. RABV variants associated with tree bats are also among the most recent to emerge
29 424 (Franka et al., 2006). The winter habits of *L. noctivagans* are poorly known, but intermittent torpor
30 425 with frequent activity at lower latitudes is likely (Geluso, 2007). Females migrate to higher latitudes
31 426 in North America during spring and summer while males tend to migrate shorter distances and occupy
32 427 mountainous regions (Cryan, 2003) and small colonies of adult females and offspring are believed to
33 428 form in summer (Parsons et al., 1986, Mattson et al., 1996, Betts, 1998). Almost nothing is known
34 429 about male group sizes (but they are presumed to be solitary), or survival rates. However, *L.*
35 430 *noctivagans* appears to be an ideal species to include in comparative studies to elucidate the effects of
36 431 host ecology on pathogen virulence, and test Boots and Sasaki’s (1999) theoretical work. Virulence
37 432 factors and life history traits should also be compared to *P. subflavus*, which has recently been
38 433 described as a migratory species, and whose RABV variant also causes a disproportionately large
39 434 proportion of human RABV cases in the USA.

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50 436 • Future directions for research to address the role of host ecological strategies in driving
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54 439 While some theoretical models are more advanced than field data in predicting virulence, spatial
55 440 mechanistic meta-population models using parameters estimated for bats and their infections are
56 441 required to determine if highly mobile hosts can select for virulent infections. The effects of torpor on

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3 442 virulence have yet to be explored, even theoretically. However, to determine the importance of host
4 443 ecological strategies in pathogen virulence, experimental infection studies are required; measurement
5 444 of pathogen virulence (e.g. mortality or morbidity rates in hosts) are required using isolates of
6 445 pathogens from migratory and non-migratory species., and from those using torpor. This could be
7 446 achieved using multiple isolates that are representative of the diversity bat RABV reservoirs. Ideally
8 447 results from one system (e.g. lyssaviruses) should be confirmed in others, such as the CoVs and AstVs
9 448 that have been detected in bats. Studies to address the theoretical findings of Gandon (2004) will need
10 449 to use infections of a common host and experimentally compare morbidity and mortality in this and
11 450 other less common bat species.
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18 452 **5. Pathogen ecology as a driver of bat disease dynamics**

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21 454 It is possible that the dramatic differences in migration, coloniality, and torpor among bat hosts may
22 455 lead to the evolution of different pathogen adaptation strategies. The differences in pathogen infection
23 456 strategies (e.g. mode of transmission and virulence) and pathogen variants associated with particular
24 457 hosts may drive disease dynamics, beyond differences in the ecology of hosts themselves. Hampson et
25 458 al. (2009) found that no matter what density of dogs were involved in an outbreak, canine RABV
26 459 epidemics always had an R_0 (which is the mean number of infections caused by an infected individual
27 460 in a susceptible population, Keeling and Rohani, 2008) of less than two. Therefore, one might
28 461 speculate that pathogen ecology drove RABV dynamics in dogs as much as host demography. Most
29 462 emerging infections from bats are RNA viruses (Li et al., 2005, Leroy et al., 2005, Towner et al.,
30 463 2007, Calisher et al., 2006). RNA viruses have a high capacity for mutation compared to DNA viruses
31 464 due especially to the low proof-reading ability of the RNA-dependent RNA polymerase that controls
32 465 replication. Therefore, mutations can appear and be fixed in a short period of time relative to the
33 466 host's evolutionary time frame (Moya et al., 2004). Variation in virulence, infectivity, and other
34 467 important processes can therefore potentially be altered within a relatively short evolutionary time
35 468 scale and change the infection dynamics. However, the pathogen's ecology must also balance factors
36 469 that affect transmission, such as virulence, epidemiological "burn-out" and mechanisms for
37 470 persistence in complex host populations.
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49 472 There is little empirical evidence for differences in virulence between viruses of the same genus in
50 473 their bat hosts, although the phenomenon of differing virulence among virus variants classified
51 474 taxonomically as a single species is nearly universal. Studies on LBV by Markotter et al. (2009)
52 475 demonstrated variable virulence among isolates when mice were challenged with different LBV
53 476 isolates, as did studies with silver-haired bat RABV (Dietzschold et al., 2000). Evidence of differing
54 477 virulence in humans exists for EBOV, with Reston and Cote d'Ivoire ebolaviruses not known to have
55 478 caused fatal human infections (for review, see Morikawa et al., 2007), whereas other EBOV viruses
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3 479 and MARV have case fatality rates up to 90%. However, the virulence of these viruses in bats (the
4 480 putative reservoirs) is less well described, but may be low (Leroy et al., 2005, Swanepoel et al., 1996,
5 481 Towner et al., 2007). Similarly, experimental studies of henipaviruses in bat hosts have shown that in
6 482 laboratory situations these viruses do not exhibit high virulence in their putative reservoir hosts
7 483 (Middleton et al., 2007, Williamson et al., 1998, 1999) in contrast to their impacts in other species.
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12 485 Maintenance strategies used by RABV and CoV, for example, clearly differ. While both have spilled
13 486 over into humans and caused fatal infections (SARS-CoV perhaps through an intermediate host), they
14 487 exhibit strong differences in ecological strategies. Both CoV and RABV have been detected in *E.*
15 488 *fuscus* (Dominguez et al., 2007, Shankar et al., 2005, Shankar et al., 2004), however, RABV infection
16 489 has a low detectable prevalence, but high fitness impact on bat hosts when cerebral infection occurs,
17 490 whereas CoV appears to have high infection prevalence, but a low fitness impact on bats (Drexler et
18 491 al., 2011, Osborne et al., 2011). These groups of viruses also differ in modes of transmission, but both
19 492 are likely transmitted through very close or direct contact of hosts. To understand infection
20 493 emergence, it is necessary to understand the importance of how traits may differ between infections,
21 494 with resultant differences in disease dynamics; these might then be predictable based on host and
22 495 infection ecology. However, little is known about the transmission and virulence characteristics of
23 496 most bat infections and clearly this is an important area for future study.
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32 498 • Future directions for research to address how pathogen ecology drives infection dynamics
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35 500 Large scale analyses of epidemics, such as for dog rabies (Hampson et al. (2009), will be impossible
36 501 until large and comparative data sets exist for bat infections. There are few estimates of R_0 in the
37 502 literature for any wildlife infection, however, Drexler et al. (2011) have shown how multiple
38 503 infections can be monitored at the population level for bats and serological data can be used to
39 504 estimate parameters such as force of infection (Hayman et al., 2012a). Other than steps proposed
40 505 above to fill these data gaps that exist for almost all bat systems, it is likely necessary that further
41 506 studies of within-host dynamics, and therefore experimental studies, are necessary to inform how
42 507 pathogen ecology affects infection dynamics. Experimentally measuring pathogen shedding and
43 508 transmission of infections with different ecological strategies in a single host may determine if those
44 509 with higher virulence (e.g. mortality or morbidity rates in hosts) have higher shedding, whereas those
45 510 with lower virulence have lower shedding, but less fitness cost. These data can thus inform
46 511 interpretation of field data and be used in mechanistic models.
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55 513 **6. Methods to integrate data and compare the epidemiology of infections in bats**
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3 515 We propose that multidisciplinary approaches are required to address generalities regarding bat
4 516 ecology and disease dynamics. Detailed integrative modelling of disease dynamics in bats requires
5 517 data and input from ecologists, bat biologists, pathogen experts and epidemiological modellers.
6 518 Integrating all these different disciplines, often through the modelling studies, is a substantial effort,
7 519 often requiring a high level of technical expertise. The insights into infectious disease dynamics that
8 520 can be derived from integrative modelling studies can, however, be profound and there is a real need
9 521 for more of such efforts to be undertaken. Mechanistic models also have the advantage of suggesting
10 522 critical data gaps. Integrative models, such as SEIR models (Box 1), can be used to test different
11 523 hypotheses, based on the relative sensitivities of parameters in the models (e.g. George et al., 2011,
12 524 Buhnerkempe et al., 2011). These models can be used to predict how the impact of host and infection
13 525 characteristics varies among sexes, species, and diseases. In addition, quantification of the impact of
14 526 other ecological characteristics can be assessed (George et al., 2011) such as bat reproduction and
15 527 survival (O'Shea et al., 2011, O'Shea et al., 2004, O'Shea et al., 2010), or differences in seasonal
16 528 prevalence among pathogen variants. If pathogen dynamics can both be significantly explained by
17 529 host ecological strategies despite differences between the pathogens, it will suggest that the dynamics
18 530 of emerging diseases in bats might be generally predictable from ecological characteristics.
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30 532 Cyclical changes in contact and transmission rates have been suggested as the causative mechanism of
31 533 temporal patterns for a variety of diseases and have been investigated using modelling approaches
32 534 (Begon et al., 2003, Childs et al., 2000, Begon et al., 2009). Models of bat infection dynamics (for
33 535 examples, see Box 1) should, therefore, integrate hypotheses regarding seasonal behaviours, including
34 536 migration, coloniality and torpor use, in order to determine the effects of seasonality on disease
35 537 dynamics. This approach has helped reveal the relative importance of transmission mechanisms in a
36 538 plague-prairie dog system (Webb et al., 2006), environmental transmission of avian influenza (Rohani
37 539 et al., 2009) and in a bat-RABV system (George et al., 2011). Another set of bat-RABV models has
38 540 been developed, but focuses largely on more detailed immunological hypotheses (Dimitrov et al.,
39 541 2007, Dimitrov et al., 2008), whereas other models demonstrate how altered migration behaviour may
40 542 result in declining immunity within specific colonies, which can lead to more explosive HeV
41 543 epidemics (Plowright et al., 2011).
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50 545 If migration and coloniality are important drivers of disease dynamics, the timing and prevalence of
51 546 infection are likely highly sensitive to parameters influencing rates of contact either within (George et
52 547 al., 2011) or between (Plowright et al., 2011) colonies in models. Likewise, if torpor is an important
53 548 driver of disease dynamics, then timing and prevalence of infection are likely highly sensitive to
54 549 parameters influencing incubation period and resistance (George et al., 2011).
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- 59 551 • Future direction for integrative modelling of bat infection dynamics
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4 553 One of the major factors prohibiting the modelling of infection dynamics in bats is the lack of
5 554 appropriate data, and steps to mitigate this deficiency are described in previous sections. We have
6 555 proposed elsewhere (Restif et al., in review) that for the most parsimonious study design, allowing
7 556 integration of field and experimental data into models that test different hypotheses, a model-guided
8 557 fieldwork approach should be undertaken. Here, model structures based on an understanding of the
9 558 biology of the host and the infectious agent, are used to design field studies; this should force
10 559 researchers to be explicit about what is known in the system. Simulations and sensitivity analyses can
11 560 be used to test differing hypotheses and parameter sensitivities, which can help the interpretation of
12 561 field and laboratory data and direct future empirical data collection.
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20 563 Further studies should also take comparative approaches, using models of similar but differing
21 564 systems. For example, although bat hosts of RABV and other lyssaviruses vary in some host
22 565 ecological strategies, such as in the use of torpor, the question arises as to whether common traits,
23 566 such as seasonal birth pulses, can be used to predict the infection dynamics across lyssavirus systems?
24 567 If so, this will provide a powerful insight into the drivers of infection dynamics, so general predictions
25 568 regarding infection ecology and spillover can be made.
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31 570 **7. Challenges to understanding the ecology of infectious agents and their bat hosts**

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33 572 There are substantial difficulties in performing these integrated and multi-disciplinary studies in most
34 573 bat-pathogen systems, including those associated with pathogen detection, time-series data collection,
35 574 and significant variation in host ecological parameters, both within and among species. The detection
36 575 of infections with low prevalence, such as those caused by some RNA viruses, can be very difficult
37 576 and may require non-random sampling, very large sample sizes, specialised techniques, or a
38 577 combination of all three (e.g. Kuzmin et al., 2008b, Leroy et al., 2005). The detection of EBOV RNA
39 578 in bats is one clear example (Leroy et al., 2005). It took decades to discover EBOV RNA in bats,
40 579 despite intensive efforts and epidemiological and experimental evidence linking the infection to bats
41 580 (Swanepoel et al., 1996, Monath, 1999, Pourrut et al., 2005) and to date the viruses are yet to be
42 581 isolated by cell culture from any bat. Furthermore, although bats were strongly implicated as
43 582 reservoirs to SARS-like CoVs and diverse lineages of CoVs have been detected from bats globally, to
44 583 date there has been no CoV isolate from bats due to the non-permissive nature of extant cell culture
45 584 systems.
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56 586 Time-series data are requisite for tackling complexities in inter-annual variation in disease ecology,
57 587 but efforts to collect them can be immense. Drexler et al (2011) studied a maternity colony of *M.*
58 588 *myotis* bats in the attic of a private house in a suburban neighbourhood in Germany, during 2008,
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3 589 2009, and 2010. This was an elegant study, however, it was only performed on a single maternity
4 590 colony and only for a short period of each year; furthermore, samples and data were only available at
5 591 the population scale. Similar population level studies have been reported for HeV and NiV in
6 592 Australia and Thailand (Field et al., 2011, Wacharapluesadee et al., 2010). All three of these studies,
7 593 however, captured seasonality in viral shedding. Case submission data have also been used to capture
8 594 seasonality, such as for RABV submissions used by George et al. (2011), however, these data are
9 595 biased (see Klug et al. 2011) and unlikely to be relevant for infections with low mortality in the host.
10 596 Studies looking for individuals shedding infection have been less successful. For example, Hayman et
11 597 al (2012a) failed to detect lyssavirus RNA in oral swabs from 796 *E. helvum* bats sampled over four
12 598 years. Despite seemingly large overall sample size, the individual sampling events were unlikely to
13 599 detect low infection prevalence, and were further reduced when the authors accounted for the testing
14 600 process sensitivity. If detection of the infection can be difficult, determination of the mode of
15 601 transmission, periods of infectiousness and rates of recovery can be even more challenging and often
16 602 require experimental studies. However, experimental studies in bats, such as those with RABV and
17 603 other lyssaviruses (Hughes et al., 2006, Kuzmin et al., 2008a, Turmelle et al., 2010b, Franka et al.,
18 604 2008), EBOV (Swanepoel et al., 1996), HeV (Williamson et al., 1998) can be very costly and
19 605 highlight the complexities of host response to infection (Franka et al., 2008, Turmelle et al., 2010b,
20 606 Halpin et al., 2011). Additionally, measuring morbidity and mortality in animals experimentally
21 607 infected with potentially highly pathogenic infection can raise difficult ethical questions. Though not
22 608 without their own ethical issues, initially, standard mouse models may be instructive, because they are
23 609 of known infection history, genetically homologous (thus reducing host heterogeneity that might
24 610 obscure mechanistic trends), and there are a range of immune markers available that do not exist for
25 611 bats; however, studies using mice will not address important questions on dynamics of infection in
26 612 natural hosts. Further difficulties exist in testing some hypotheses, because though apparently
27 613 widespread in bats, infection such as CoVs and AstV are yet to have been propagated in the
28 614 laboratory.

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44 616 Complications also arise when attempting to estimate vital host-related parameters. Birth rates are
45 617 generally measurable, but mortality rates and the causes of mortality are particularly challenging to
46 618 determine in wild populations (O'Shea et al., 2004). Generally capture-mark-recapture methods are
47 619 used for estimating mortality rates; however, these studies are difficult, especially with migratory
48 620 species or species with large colony sizes. Determination of the true age of wild bats is also difficult
49 621 once bats reach maturity, making life-table analyses intractable (life table approaches can also have
50 622 analytical shortcomings; Williams et al., 2002). Hayman et al. (2012a) used tooth cementum annuli to
51 623 age bats, and determined that age-specific seroprevalence against LBV and estimated force of
52 624 infection increased with age (Hayman et al., 2012a). However, this was a destructive process (canine
53 625 teeth were used) and the sample size small.

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4 627 The quantification of seasonal and sex differences in coloniality, torpor and migration is difficult
5 628 because of peculiarities in the ecology and life histories of bats themselves. Typically, adequate
6 629 information only exists for parts of the year (one particular season; Hayman et al, 2012a, b, Drexler et
7 630 al., 2011) or one particular sex (Weller et al., 2009; Drexler et al., 2011). For example, information
8 631 exists on summer colony sizes of *E. fuscus* and activity patterns of females, but not males; however,
9 632 population genetic studies have shed some light on sex-biased patterns of dispersal in this species
10 633 (Nadin-Davis et al., 2010, Turmelle et al., 2011). For other species, such as *E. helvum*, migration
11 634 patterns are largely unknown, so information is only available from colonies that are conspicuous for
12 635 parts of the year (Richter and Cumming, 2008, Richter and Cumming, 2006, Sorensen and Halberg,
13 636 2001, Hayman et al., 2010, 2012a, 2012b). Studying non-migratory colonies of some species may
14 637 provide insight into the relative effects of migration and other ecological factors (Peel et al., 2012).
15 638 However, group and population sizes themselves may be very difficult to determine (Kunz, 2003),
16 639 and roosting dynamics may be hard to quantify. Individuals in large colonies are difficult to identify
17 640 and count, and small colonies may be inconspicuous (Weller et al., 2009). Often only roosting or
18 641 foraging behaviour is known, and tracking over long-distances requires more labour intensive
19 642 methods, such as tagging with wing bands or following bats fitted with radio transmitters using fixed-
20 643 wing aircraft (Cryan and Diehl, 2009). Precise GPS or satellite tracking systems are currently too
21 644 large for long-distance tracking of all but the largest bat species (Smith et al., 2011). The use of
22 645 infrared video cameras has recently been utilized to monitor roost entrances and count the number of
23 646 bats that emerge each night and associated host thermal energetic profiles (Reichard et al., 2010,
24 647 Reichard et al., 2009, Hristov et al., 2008), however, these systems are costly and in their infancy with
25 648 respect to general use.

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- 28 651 • Advances required to improve the understanding of infection ecology in bats
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30 653 Far wider use of capture-recapture techniques is required to obtain estimates of host survival and
31 654 infection-related parameters. While manual capture has distinct advantages, such as allowing
32 655 sampling of individuals to obtain infection-related data, it may be impractical in many instances.
33 656 Thus, wider use of passive integrated responders (PIT; microchips) and readers (see O'Shea et al.,
34 657 2011) for marking bats and the use of telemetry will be necessary. Hayman et al. (2012b) used radio
35 658 transmitters simply as a method for "presence-absence" detection in a capture-recapture study of
36 659 migratory *E. helvum*. Currently transmitter size limits the use of telemetry in most bat species (Smith
37 660 et al., 2011) and the range limits the use of PIT tags, thus improved micro-technologies are required to
38 661 reduce the size of the transmitters without compromising battery capacity. These technologies are also
39 662 valuable in order to locate the sites bats migrate to or hibernate in.

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664 Monitoring colony sizes has been of concern for bat ecologists for a number of years and new
665 technologies are being developed to gain more accurate estimates (e.g. , Hristov et al. 2010). These
666 estimates are necessary to test specific hypotheses relating to critical community size, meta-
667 population infection dynamics and coloniality. However, the use of such technologies is still in
668 development, as are the computer algorithms to estimate abundance, and thus widespread monitoring
669 of colonies is currently very limited.

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671 Interpretation of infection-related data, such as antibody prevalence, is problematic if the age of the
672 animals sampled is unknown, therefore better techniques to age bats are required. Hayman et al.
673 (2012a, 2012b) used tooth cementum annuli, but clearly the destructive sampling is not appropriate in
674 the majority of situations. Thus, in the absence of data from individually-marked bats, non-destructive
675 sampling from teeth might be a productive area for research (e.g. Plowright et al., 2008b).

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677 For better interpretation of infection-related data, immunological tools such as bat specific reagents,
678 for example, are necessary to be able to understand bat immune responses to infection (whether from
679 field or experimental data). Permissive bat cell lines (e.g. Crameri et al., 2009) may be necessary for
680 isolation of viruses, and experimental studies are necessary to understand the within host dynamics
681 and pathogenesis of infections in bats, and modes of transmission. Highly variable serological
682 responses have been observed among individual bats in experimental studies, meaning interpretation
683 of results is not always straightforward (Halpin et al., 2011, Turmelle et al., 2010b). These
684 experimental studies must be designed to better understand empirical field data (e.g. Sulkin et al.,
685 1960). In particular, baseline estimates of antibody responses from naive bats (e.g. captive bred) are
686 necessary to better interpret serological results from field studies (see Turmelle et al., 2010b,
687 Williamson et al., 1998, 2000). Regarding bat immune responses, typically adaptive responses are
688 measured because tools are available to measure antibody responses. However, substantial
689 advancements in the understanding of bat infection ecology will be made once innate immune
690 responses are understood. This is particularly important for infections such as CoV, filoviruses, and
691 henipaviruses, which apparently do not cause overt disease in bats. Cytokine expression profiles, for
692 example, will provide a much deeper understanding of bat immune responses following infection (for
693 an example of methods, see Sadeghi et al., 2011).

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695 Lastly, while suitable statistical and modelling methods exist already, and generally a lack of data is
696 the issue, better use of specific approaches are required. Specifically, increased use of mechanistic
697 models to integrate data from different sources is needed to understand the driver of infection
698 dynamics and sensitivity analyses should be used once these models have been developed (Restif et
699 al., In Review). Consideration of meta-population dynamics and multispecies/pathogen models may

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3 700 be necessary to understand some systems; however, these models suffer from even greater issues
4 701 relating to parameterisation than single species-single host models. For statistical analysis, use of
5 702 Bayesian frameworks should be considered when some prior data or knowledge exists and/or sample
6 703 sizes are small. Bayesian analysis are often better able to estimate parameters from small data sets
7 704 than frequentist methods, plus have the flexibility to incorporate prior knowledge into parameter
8 705 estimates (Colchero and Clark, 2012). Both these characteristics may be appropriate for studies of
9 706 bats when little information is known on a specific species and samples sizes are generally small.
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15 708 **8. Understanding anthropogenic changes**

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18 710 Although human-bat interactions are difficult to quantify, it appears that such interactions are
19 711 increasing and occurring in numerous ways. Increasingly humans encroach into bat habitats and bats
20 712 are utilising man-made structures as roosts. Examples of bats utilising man-made structures include
21 713 *M. myotis* (infected with AstV, CoV, and AdV) roosting in homes in Europe (Drexler et al., 2011),
22 714 and RABV infected *T. brasiliensis* and *E. fuscus* bats in bridges and houses in the Americas (Turmelle
23 715 et al., 2010a, Shankar et al., 2005, O'Shea et al., 2011). CoV infected *E. fuscus* have been detected in
24 716 homes in the USA also (Osborne et al., 2011). Several MARV spillover cases have been linked
25 717 epidemiologically to cave activities such as tourism and mining (for review see Towner et al., 2009)
26 718 and SARS-CoV is believed to have emerged due to the use of bats as food in live “wet” markets in
27 719 China (Woo et al., 2006). Nipah virus outbreaks have been linked to palm-sap collection in
28 720 Bangladesh and intensification of pig farming, alongside mango (*Mangifera indica*) production in
29 721 Malaysia (Luby et al., 2006, Pulliam et al., 2011). Hendra virus outbreaks have been suggested to be
30 722 due to increased urban habituation of bats in Australia (Plowright et al., 2011). Recent surveys
31 723 suggest that the numbers of harvested *Pteropus* and *Eidolon* bats (old world fruit bats) in Asia and
32 724 Africa can be very high (and likely un-sustainable, see Kamins et al., 2011, Struebig et al., 2007,
33 725 Epstein et al., 2009). The harvested numbers estimated from single regions within nations suggest that
34 726 human-bat interactions are occurring on an enormous scale throughout both continents. Choisy and
35 727 Rohani (2006) used theoretical models to predict that in many systems harvesting may increase the
36 728 prevalence of infection and size of epidemic peaks in populations of harvested animals, because
37 729 density-dependent recruitment (through increased survival of young) increases the susceptible pool
38 730 and hence the size of the epidemic peak in populations. These hunting figures, coupled with the
39 731 increasing use of human built shelters by bats, mean that the dynamics at the human-bat population
40 732 interface are a neglected area of research. We believe that this gap must be addressed if we are to
41 733 understand spillover risk.
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56 735 Additionally, attitudes to bats and bat conservation must be understood in order to prevent further
57 736 spillover. It is encouraging, however, that recent examples appear to demonstrate that if addressed
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3 737 appropriately, mitigation strategies can be implemented (Stone, 2011, Nahar et al., 2011). However,
4 738 when considering zoonotic infections, bat infection spillover events to humans are typically so
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6 739 infrequent that human effects on spillover dynamics may be difficult to detect. For example, did
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8 740 reduced encroachment and intermediate host contact in Malaysia, due to laws preventing fruit farming
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10 741 in pig farming areas, prevent further NiV outbreaks in Malaysia? In Bangladesh, where NiV
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12 742 outbreaks are almost annual, it may be easier to quantify if preventative measures are successful
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14 743 (Stone, 2011, Nahar et al., 2011). However, neither spillover prevention method may be affecting bat
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16 744 infection dynamics themselves.

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18 746 • Advances required to improve the understanding of anthropological effects on infection
19 747 ecology in bats

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21 749 Only once well-parameterised models of systems are developed, can perturbations, such as through
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23 750 harvesting or restricting bat movement, be simulated to attempt to predict alterations in infection
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25 751 dynamics. Empirical evidence can be more difficult to produce, in particular because control studies
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27 752 may be difficult to perform, particularly in migratory species, but attempts should be made.
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29 753 Opportunistic (but not poorly designed) studies may be necessary. For example, some agencies are
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31 754 using destructive control methods to eliminate species such as vampire bats to prevent RABV
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33 755 spillover infections in cattle and people. Monitoring population and infection dynamics in both these
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35 756 and untouched populations could provide evidence of increased intensity of epidemics in the local
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37 757 populations, as predicted by Choisy and Rohani (2006). Where culling or hunting occurs in Africa and
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39 758 Asia (Kamins et al., 2011, Struebig et al., 2007, Epstein et al., 2009), studying infection dynamics
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41 759 may be illuminating. Clearly in all cases, studies are necessary for both conservation and infection
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43 760 spillover purposes.

44 761 45 762 *Summary*

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47 764 Understanding disease dynamics in wildlife populations, specifically within populations of bats, is
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49 765 important if informed policy and mitigation strategies are to be taken. The increase in human and bat
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51 766 contact is inevitable; however, there is potential to manage how these interactions occur (Stone, 2011,
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53 767 Nahar et al., 2011). We propose a combination of field and laboratory studies that can be used to
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55 768 create well-validated data-driven mechanistic models to elucidate the aspects of bat ecology that are
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57 769 most critical to the dynamics of emerging bat viruses. This trait-based predictive approach will be
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59 770 particularly important when population surveillance data are unavailable and it is unclear which
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771 aspects of host ecology may be most important in driving potential disease emergence.

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40 1294

42 1295 **Box 1**

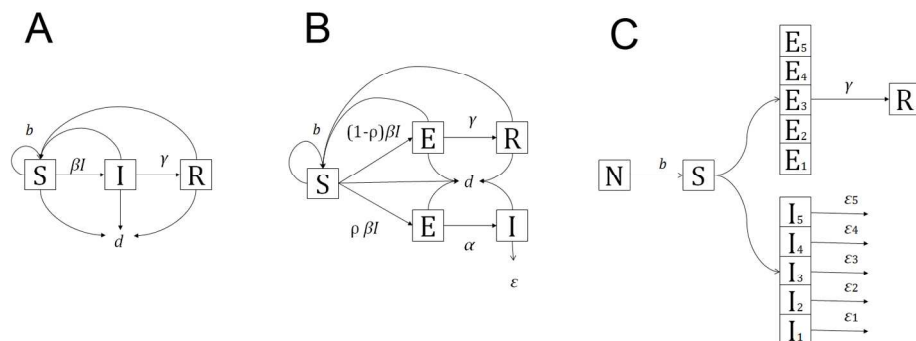
44 1296 Classifying bat populations into susceptible (S), exposed (i.e. incubating infection; E),
45 1297 infectious (I), and recovered (immune; R) classes allows analysis of infection dynamics in bat
46 1298 populations. Three alternative model structures used to model the lyssavirus transmission
47 1299 period for different bat populations and their lyssaviruses are shown. Parameters are: b -birth
50 1300 rate; β -transmission coefficient; γ -rate of recovery (seroconversion); ϵ -disease induced
52 1301 mortality; d -‘natural’ mortality; p -probability of infection causing disease.

54 1302 A) The SIR model structure used by Amengual et al. (2007) to understand possible
55 1303 asymptomatic European bat lyssavirus-1 infection dynamics in *Myotis myotis* bats.

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3 1304 B) The SEIR model structure used by George et al. (2011) to understand rabies virus
4 1305 (RABV) dynamics and persistence in *Eptesicus fuscus*. Three “seasons” were
5 1306 modelled: spring birthing/pre-transmission; summer transmission (with this structure);
6 1307 and winter hibernation (with no transmission).

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9 1308 C) The SEIR structure used by Dimitrov et al. (2008) to understand how different
10 1309 immunotypes of host allowed RABV persistence in *Tadarida brasiliensis* bats and
11 1310 how RABV might select for different immunotypes in populations. N is population
12 1311 size ($= S+E+I+R$). Differing infectivity and mortality rates, d , were modelled and
13 1312 infection and transmission or recovery was modelled with individual-based models.
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For Review Only



Box 1

Classifying bat populations into susceptible (S), exposed (i.e. incubating infection; E), infectious (I), and recovered (immune; R) classes allows analysis of infection dynamics in bat populations. Three alternative model structures used to model the lyssavirus transmission period for different bat populations and their lyssaviruses are shown. Parameters are: b -birth rate; β -transmission coefficient; γ -rate of recovery (seroconversion); ϵ -disease induced mortality; d -'natural' mortality; ρ -probability of infection causing disease.

A) The SIR model structure used by Amengual et al. (2007) to understand possible asymptomatic European bat lyssavirus-1 infection dynamics in *Myotis myotis* bats.

B) The SEIR model structure used by George et al. (2011) to understand rabies virus (RABV) dynamics and persistence in *Eptesicus fuscus*. Three "seasons" were modelled: spring birthing/pre-transmission; summer transmission (with this structure); and winter hibernation (with no transmission).

C) The SEIR structure used by Dimitrov et al. (2008) to understand how different immunotypes of host allowed RABV persistence in *Tadarida brasiliensis* bats and how RABV might select for different immunotypes in populations. N is population size ($= S+E+I+R$). Differing infectivity and mortality rates, d , were modelled and infection and transmission or recovery was modelled with individual-based models.

152x61mm (300 x 300 DPI)