

Rare 'bamboo rat' photographed at Machu Picchu

August 17 2018

A rare rodent species known as a "bamboo rat" that lives around the Inca ruins at Machu Picchu in Peru has resurfaced after a decade of absence and been photographed for the first time.

A specimen of the rodent [Dactylomys peruanus](#) was spotted by guards among [bamboo](#) trees at the citadel, which is surrounded by a protected area, said the National Service of Natural Protected Areas.

The last time the animal was recorded at Machu Picchu was in 2008.

The bamboo rat lives in subtropical or wet tropical areas, according to Peruvian authorities.

It has also been reported at medium-altitude heights on the slopes of the Andes in northern Bolivia.

In Peru, the animal is on a list of creatures about which little is known because it is seen so rarely.

© 2018 AFP

Citation: Rare 'bamboo rat' photographed at Machu Picchu (2018, August 17) retrieved 19 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2018-08-rare-bamboo-rat-machu-picchu.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is

provided for information purposes only.