

# Threatened species of the Northern Territory

## Desert bandicoot

### *Perameles eremiana*

#### Conservation status

##### Australia: Extinct

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

##### Northern Territory: Extinct

Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976

#### Description

The desert bandicoot was a small to medium-sized (body mass about 250g) species, similar in appearance to the barred bandicoots. It was generally orange-brown above and white below, with one or two dark bands on the hindquarters.

#### Distribution

The desert bandicoot formerly occurred in southeast Northern Territory, northeast South Australia and across north central Western Australia. In the NT, it extended as far north as the Tanami desert<sup>1</sup>.

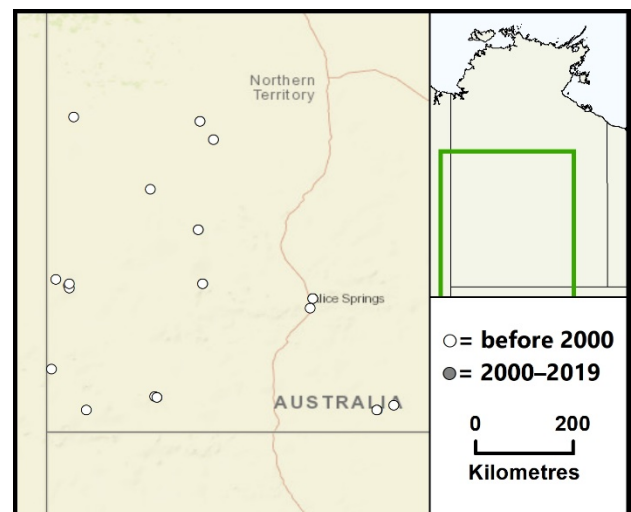
NT conservation reserves where reported:  
Formerly occurred in areas that are now included within Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park and Tjoritja/West MacDonnell National Park.

#### Ecology and life-history

The desert bandicoot occupied sand plain and dune environments that supported either hummock or tussock grassland<sup>2</sup>.



Credit: © Museums Victoria



Credit: Known localities of the Desert Bandicoot in the NT ([nrmmaps.nt.gov.au](http://nrmmaps.nt.gov.au))

#### Threatening processes

The decline and extinction of the desert bandicoot is attributed to a range of factors including predation by cats and foxes, and habitat alteration due to the impacts of exotic herbivores and to changed fire regimes.

## Conservation objectives and management

The species is presumed extinct<sup>3,4</sup>. No conservation management plan can offer further help.

## References

- <sup>1</sup> Johnson, K.A., Southgate, R.I. 1990. Present and former status of bandicoots in the Northern Territory. In J.H. Seebeck, P.R. Brown, R.L. Wallis and C.M. Kemper (Eds.), *Bandicoots and Bilbies*. Surrey Beatty and Sons, Sydney pp. 85-92.
- <sup>2</sup> Burbidge, A.A., Johnson, K.A., Fuller, P.F., Southgate, R.I. 1988. Aboriginal knowledge of animals of the central deserts of Australia. *Aust. Wildl. Res.* 15, 9-39.
- <sup>3</sup> Finlayson, H.H. 1961. On central Australian mammals, Part IV. The distribution and status of central Australian species. *Rec. South Aust. Mus.* 41, 141-191.
- <sup>4</sup> Parker, S.A. 1973. An annotated checklist of the native land mammals of the Northern Territory. *Rec. South Aust. Mus.* 16, 1-57.