

# Threatened Species of the Northern Territory

## CENTRAL HARE-WALLABY

### *Lagorchestes asomatus*

#### Conservation status

Australia: Extinct

Northern Territory: Extinct

#### Description

The central hare-wallaby was a small hare-wallaby known from a single skull removed from a fresh carcass by the explorer/geologist Michael Terry between Mt Farewell and the northern end of Lake Mackay in the Northern Territory in 1932 (Parker 1973). According to Western Desert Aborigines the species was about the size of a rabbit, with soft, grey fur, hairy feet and a short tail.

#### Distribution

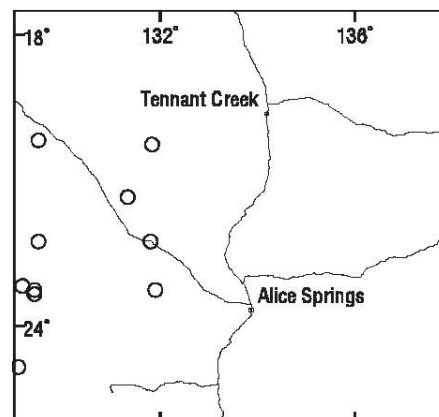
The former distribution of this species is known only from one collection and information supplied by elderly Aboriginal people (Burbidge *et al.* 1988). It formerly occupied parts of the central and western deserts.

#### *Conservation reserves where reported:*

None (although it may have formerly occurred in areas that are now included within Uluru Kata-Tjuta National Park and West MacDonnell National Park.)

#### Ecology

The biology of the central hare-wallaby is known only from anecdotal information provided by elderly Aboriginal people. It sheltered in a shallow depression under spinifex clumps, but occasionally dug a short burrow (Burbidge *et al.* 1988).



Known locations of the central hare-wallaby.  
o = pre 1970

#### Conservation assessment

The central hare-wallaby is thought to have disappeared between 1940 and 1960, following a broad-scale decline extending over at least the previous 50 years (Burbidge *et al.* 1988).

## **Threatening processes**

The decline and extinction of the central hare-wallaby was probably because of the impacts of 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. No conservation management plan can offer further help.

## **Compiled by**

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## **References**

- Burbidge, A.A., Johnson, K.A., Fuller, P.F., and Southgate, R.I. (1988). Aboriginal knowledge of animals of the central deserts of Australia. *Australian Wildlife Research* **15**, 9-39.
- Parker, S.A. (1973). An annotated checklist of the native land mammals of the Northern Territory. *Records of the South Australian Museum* **16**, 1-57.