

Threatened Species of the Northern Territory

LONG-TAILED HOPPING-MOUSE

Notomys longicaudatus

Conservation status

Australia: Extinct

Northern Territory: Extinct



(J Gould © Museum Victoria)

Description

The long-tailed hopping-mouse was a relatively large hopping-mouse (about 100 g), with an extremely long tail. It had a large neck gland (Watts and Aslin 1981).

Distribution

The species was recorded at several sites in arid and semi-arid regions from Western Australia across into northwest New South Wales.

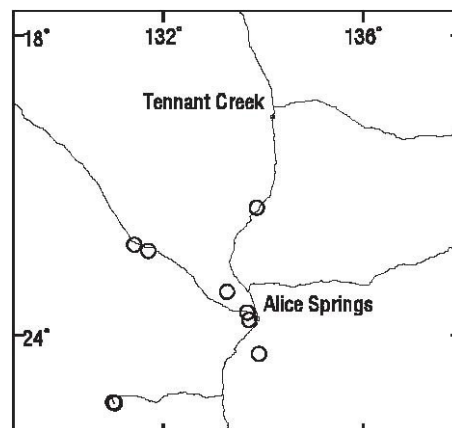
Northern Territory records consist of specimens from the Burt Plain and Barrow Creek and skeletal remains obtained from owl pellets at the Granites (Tanami Desert) and at Uluru Kata-Tjuta National Park.

Conservation reserves where reported:

None (although it formerly occurred in areas that are now included within Uluru Kata-Tjuta National Park, Watarrka National Park and West MacDonnell National Park: Reid *et al.* 1993; Baynes and Johnson 1996).

Ecology

The biology of the long-tailed hopping-mouse is largely unknown. It favoured heavier (clay) soils (Gould 1863).



Known locations of the long-tailed hopping-mouse.
o = pre 1970

Conservation assessment

The last specimen of the long-tailed hopping-mouse was obtained in 1901-02, when a large series was collected from Barrow Creek (Parker 1973). It is presumed to have become extinct within a few subsequent decades.

Threatening processes

The decline and extinction of the long-tailed hopping-mouse was probably due 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. No conservation management plan can offer further help.

Complied by

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[May 2006]

References

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