

# Threatened species of the Northern Territory

## Long-tailed hopping-mouse

*Notomys longicaudatus*

### Conservation status

#### Australia: Extinct

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

#### Northern Territory: Extinct

Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976



Credit: South Australia Museum

NT conservation reserves where reported:  
Formerly occurred in areas that are now included within Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, Watarrka National Park and Tjoritja/West MacDonnell National Park<sup>1-2</sup>.

### Description

The Long-tailed Hopping-mouse was a large hopping-mouse, with a body mass of about 100 g. The body and tail are tawny brown above and whitish below. The tail is about one-third longer than the combined head and body length, and the terminal third has a distinct blackish brush. Its large size and extremely long tail distinguished this species from other hopping-mouse species.

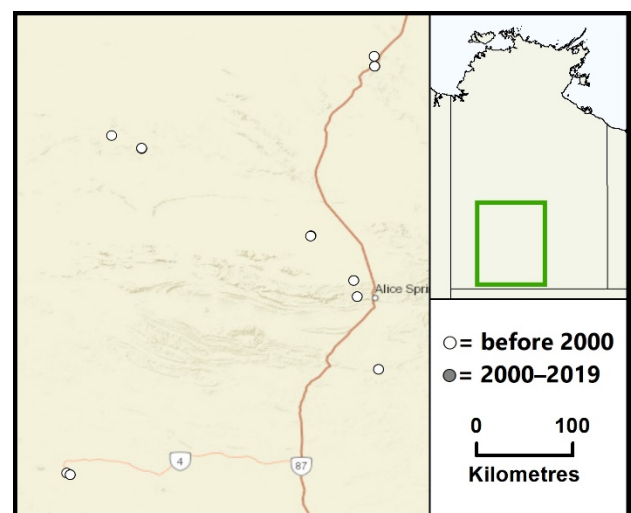
### Distribution

The Long-tailed Hopping-mouse was recorded alive at widely separated localities in arid and semi-arid Western Australia, the Northern Territory (NT) and far-western New South Wales. Subfossil material indicates the species also occurred in north-western Queensland and was once widespread in South Australia.

Records from the NT consist of specimens collected 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.

### Ecology and life-history

The ecology and life-history of the Long-tailed Hopping-mouse is largely unknown; though it is thought to have favoured habitats on heavier (clay) soils. Habitats in the vicinity of the localities where the species was collected include acacia and eucalypt woodland, hummock grassland and low shrubland.



Caption: Known localities of the Long-tailed Hopping-mouse in the NT ([nrmmaps.nt.gov.au](http://nrmmaps.nt.gov.au))

## Threatening processes

The decline and extinction of the Long-tailed Hopping-mouse was probably due to a range of factors, including predation by feral Cats *Felis catus* and Red Foxes *Vulpes vulpes*, habitat degradation due to introduced herbivores and livestock, and habitat alteration due to changed fire regimes.

## Conservation objectives and management

As the Long-tailed Hopping-mouse is presumed to be extinct, there are no conservation objectives for the species within the NT.

## References

- <sup>1</sup> Baynes, A., Johnson, K.A. 1996. The contributions of the Horn Expedition and cave deposits to knowledge of the original mammal fauna of central Australia, in: Reid, J.R.W., Kerle, J.A., Morton, S.R. (Eds.), *Exploring Central Australia: Society, the Environment and the 1894 Horn Expedition*. Surrey Beatty and Sons, Sydney, pp. 168–186.
- <sup>2</sup> Reid, J.R.W., Kerle, J.A., Baker, L., 1993. Mammals, in: Reid, J.R.W., Kerle, J.A., Morton, S.R. (Eds.), *Kowari 4: Uluru Fauna*. Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, Canberra, pp. 69–78.
- <sup>3</sup> 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.