

Threatened species of the Northern Territory

Crescent nailtail wallaby

Onychogalea lunata

Conservation status

Australia: Extinct

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Northern Territory: Extinct

Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976



Credit South Australian Museum

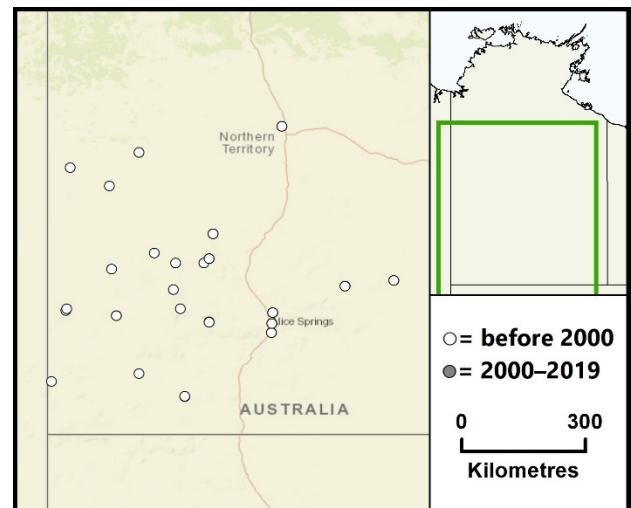
Description

The Crescent Nailtail Wallaby was a medium-sized macropod (body mass up to 3.5 kg), of attractive appearance. The upperparts were ash-grey with a rufous wash on the shoulders and across onto the flanks. A distinct white crescent spread from the shoulder blades down to the chest, with another white patch along the thigh.

Distribution

The Crescent Nailtail Wallaby formerly occupied a large area of central Australia that included the Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia. The species was relatively common in the late 19th century.

NT conservation reserves where reported:
Formerly occurred in areas that are now included within Tjoritja/West MacDonnell Park¹ and probably Watarrka National Park and Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park.



Caption: Known localities of the Crescent Nailtail Wallaby in the NT (nrmmaps.nt.gov.au)

Ecology and life-history

The biology of the Crescent Nailtail Wallaby is poorly known. It occupied woodland and shrublands, especially those dominated by Mulga, and ate grass. During the day, it sheltered below trees and shrubs².

Threatening processes

The decline and extinction of the Crescent Nailtail Wallaby 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.

References

¹ Gibson, D.F., Cole, J.R. 1996. Mammals of the MacDonnell Ranges area: 1894 to 1994. In Morton, S.R., Mulvaney, D.J., Exploring Central Australia: Society, the Environment and the 1894 Horn Expedition. Surrey Beatty and Sons, Sydney, pp. 305-321.

² 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.

³ 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.