

THREATENED SPECIES OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY



SHORT-TAILED HOPPING-MOUSE

Notomys amplus

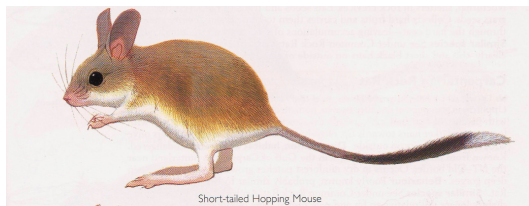
Conservation status

Australia: Extinct.

Northern Territory: Extinct.

Description

The short-tailed hopping-mouse was the largest of the 10 species of hopping-mice recorded from Australia. At a mass of about 100 g, it was twice the weight of any of the species that still occur in arid Australia. This species was brown in colour with a tail length approximately the same as the head-body length.



Short-tailed hopping-mouse (Illustration by Frank Knight)

Distribution

The short-tailed hopping-mouse is known from two specimens collected at Charlotte Waters in the extreme south of the Northern Territory (Parker 1973) and from skeletal remains (probably several hundred years old) obtained from owl pellets at Uluru Kata-Tjuta National Park and in the Flinders Ranges, South Australia (Baynes and Johnson 1996). Information from Aboriginal residents of central Australia suggests a broader distribution in the central and western deserts.

Conservation reserves where reported:

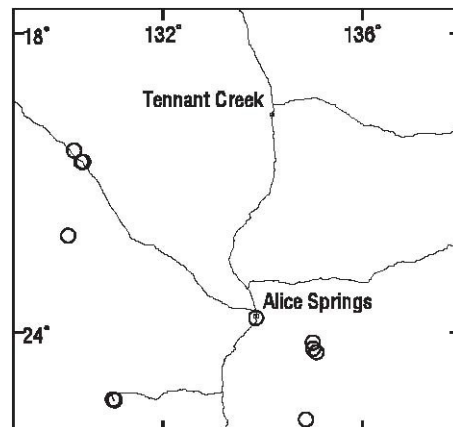
None (although it formerly occurred in areas that are now included within Uluru Kata-Tjuta National Park).

Ecology

The biology of the short-tailed hopping-mouse is unknown.

Conservation assessment

The only specimens of the short-tailed hopping-mouse were obtained in 1896. It is presumed to have become extinct not long afterwards (Finlayson 1961).



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

Threatening processes

The decline and extinction of the short-tailed hopping-mouse 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. No conservation management plan can offer further help.



Threatened Species Information Sheet

Compiled by

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References

- Baynes, A., and Johnson, K.A. (1996). The contributions of the Horn Expedition and cave deposits to knowledge of the original mammal fauna of central Australia. In *Exploring Central Australia: Society, the Environment and the 1894 Horn Expedition* (eds S.R. Morton and D.J. Mulvaney.) pp. 168-186. (Surrey Beatty and Sons, Sydney.)
- Finlayson, H.H. (1961). On central Australian mammals, Part IV. The distribution and status of central Australian species. *Records of the South Australian Museum* **41**, 141-191.
- 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.

