

## THREATENED SPECIES OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY



# LONG-TAILED HOPPING-MOUSE

## *Notomys longicaudatus*

### Conservation status

Australia: Extinct.

Northern Territory: Extinct.

### 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).



long-tailed hopping-mouse (J Gould ©  
Museum Victoria)

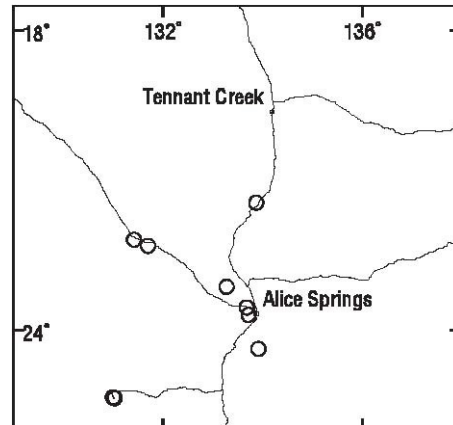
### Distribution

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).



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

### Ecology

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

### 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.

### Compiled by

Chris Pavey

[May 2006]



Northern Territory Government

Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts

## 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.)
- Gould, J. (1863). *The mammals of Australia. Vol. 3.* (The author, London.)
- 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.
- Reid, J. R. W., Kerle, J. A., and Baker, L. (1993). Mammals. In *Kowari 4: Uluru Fauna* (eds J.R.W. Reid, J.A. Kerle and S.R. Morton.) pp. 69-78. (Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, Canberra.)
- Watts, C.H.S., and Aslin, H.J. (1981). *The Rodents of Australia.* (Angus and Robertson, Sydney).

