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Population histories of Australian animals



Population histories of Australian animals (#129)

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Around the LGM much of Australia was a dusty, hyper-arid landscape; rainfall was up to 30% less than current levels. Currently there is little knowledge about how or where the Australian biota survived this period. We have reconstructed the demographic history of a subset of Australian animals in order to understand the response of endemic species to these conditions because they are similar to many of those predicted under current climate change models for large parts of the continent (albeit with different drivers). It is imperative that we quickly discover which species and ecosystems were most adversely impacted during the LGM and examine the major responses that contributed to the adverse outcomes, as well as identify the location and nature of the differing habitats in which species survived.

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