RARE WEST AUSTRALIAN FROGS : GENETIC STRUCTURING AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THEIR CONSERVATION.

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The existence of spatial genetic variation within a species can reflect population structures and processes, and evolutionary trends which have important implications for conservation. Information about genetic structuring can provide a guide as to which populations are central to conserving the species and to where individuals could be relocated without the risk of reducing overall diversity. The frogs *Geocrinia alba* and *G. vitellina* only occur in a small area in south western Australia and are threatened with extinction. In order to help plan for their continued survival and evolution, an allozyme electrophoresis study is underway for all six populations of *G. vitellina* and 12 populations of *G. alba*. This paper reports on the initial findings and their implications for the conservation of the two frogs.

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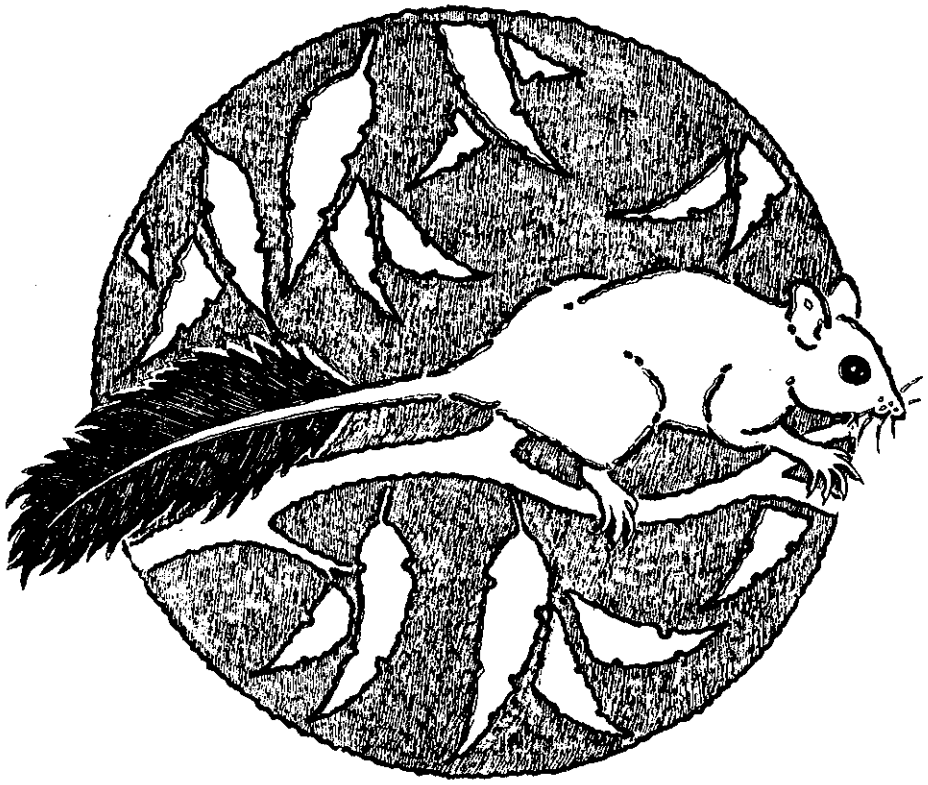

ABSTRACTS