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REINTRODUCTIONS OF THE GREATER STICK-NEST RAT, *LEPORILLUS CONDITOR*

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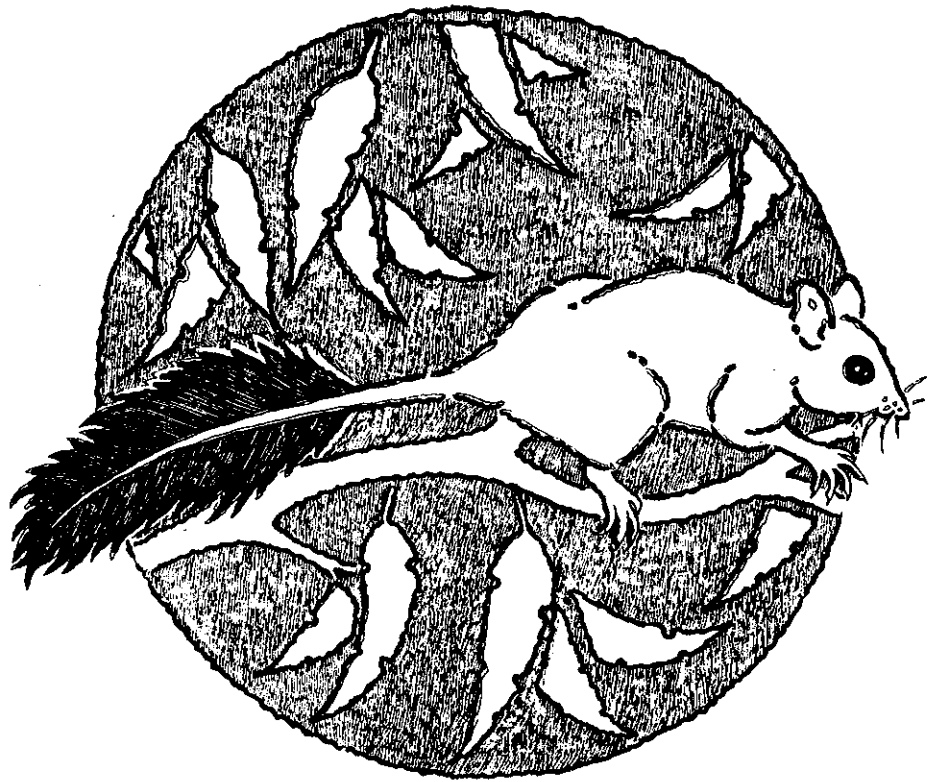
During 1990 and 1991, 101 captive-bred stick-nest rats *Leporillus conditor* (51M:50F) were reintroduced to 344ha Reevesby Island (S.A.) Survival, dispersal and reproduction were monitored using radio-tracking, and pitfall and Elliott trapping. Radio-tracking provided by far the most reliable and complete data-set for each animal monitored. Released rats had a high survival rate. They quickly established relatively fixed home ranges and regained lost body condition. Females occupied core areas of about 1ha; males ranged further with regular movements of 800m plus. Up to five litters per female were recorded within the first 9 months (mean litter = 1.5) and at least 57 young were found of an estimated 100 produced in this period. Predation by owls was detected, but minimal, probably due to the abundant dense vegetation cover present. Forty *Leporillus* (18M;22F) were also released on 160ha Salutation Island, Shark Bay (W.A.) in July 1990. Monitoring revealed similar behavioural and reproductive patterns to those on Reevesby, although there was a significant initial mortality of released rats due to the long and varied transit conditions. Two releases at Yookamurra Sanctuary on the S.A. mainland in 1991 and 1992 failed primarily due to high levels of predation by a fox or foxes and by birds of prey.

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**ABSTRACTS**