
REINTRODUCTION OF THE QUENDA (*ISOODON OBESULUS FUSCIVENTER*) TO THE
WHEATBELT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

J.A. Friend, G. Collis and N.D. Thomas

W.A. Wildlife Research Centre, CALM, PO Box 51, Wanneroo, W.A., 6065

A group of 40 quendas was translocated in October 1991 from dense shrubland on a highway development site in an outer suburb of Perth to Tutanning Nature Reserve (2000ha), where the species became extinct between 1972 and 1980. Fox control using 1080 in meat baits has been carried out on the reserve since 1984. Twenty of the quendas were fitted with radio transmitters. The quendas were released at four shrubland sites. The translocated animals were monitored by radio-tracking and by trapping at the release sites.

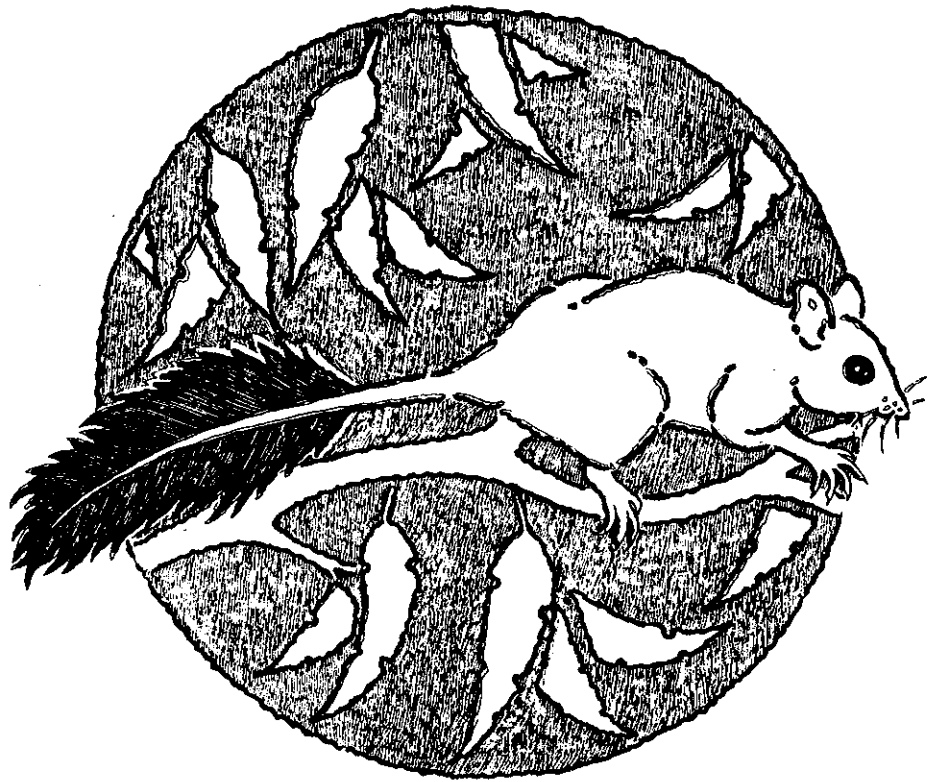
All but three of the radio-tagged quendas established home ranges near their release sites. In the first five months, only three mortalities were recorded amongst the radio-tagged individuals, none due to predation. On all trapping occasions, more than 50% of females were carrying pouch young. The first capture of a newly independent juvenile occurred in April 1992. In October 1992, seven out of 16 animals captured had been recruited at Tutanning. A further 38 quendas from the same source were released at Tutanning in November 1992.

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