



Chuditch

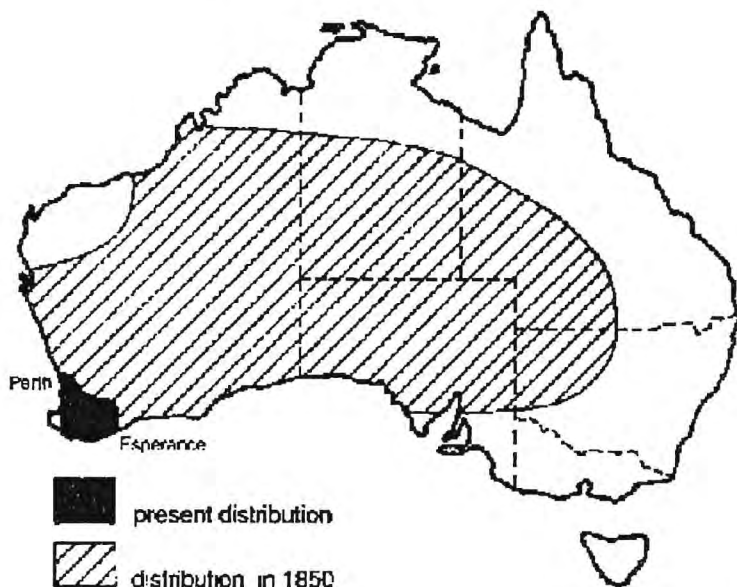
Illustration and Distribution Map



Chuditch *Dasyurus geoffroii*



Chuditch Distribution



Chuditch Information

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Chuditch

Dasyurus geoffroii



An average adult male Chuditch weighs about 1.3 kg - about half the size of a house cat; an average female is smaller, weighing about 0.9 kg.

Chuditch drawing

Habitat

Past distribution: forest, woodland and desert habitats across more than 70% of mainland Australia. Present distribution: South-west Western Australia. They are seen regularly only in the Jarrah forest, but are occasionally sighted in the Wheatbelt and South Coast areas. Current Population: Fewer than 6000 Chuditch remain in the wild, mostly in the Jarrah forest.

Chuditch distribution map

Requirements

Diet: Chuditch eat mostly termites, beetles, centipedes, cockroaches and grasshoppers. They will also eat small lizards, birds and mammals.

Behaviour: At night Chuditch search for food, mostly on the ground. They spend the day sleeping in a hollow log or burrow. An adult female will search for food over an area of 3-4 km², a male's home range may be as big as 15 km². Each animal may use many den sites within its home range.

Breeding: Two to six young are born in early winter, 17-18 days after mating. Newborn Chuditch are about the size of a grain of rice. The young stay in the pouch for nine weeks then are left in a den while their mother forages. By six months of age, the young are weaned and leave their mother's home range. The average Chuditch life span in the wild is three to four years.

Threats

clearing of habitat has led to decline of Chuditch
fox predation is the major current threat
road traffic
illegal poisoning and trapping.

Action Guide for Chuditch

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