

DISTRIBUTION OF MODERN MAMMALS
IN THE SOUTH-WEST OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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Distribution maps for nineteen species of modern mammals have been prepared by inspecting the mammal collection held at the Western Australian Museum. Data for a further thirteen species were made available by Mr Alex Baynes. The combined data cover the following groups:

Monotremes 1 species

Marsupials

Native Cats	7 species
Bandicoots	2 species
Possoms	4 species
Macropods	6 species

Eutherean Mammals

Bats	9 species
Rodents	2 species
Dingo	1 species

The distribution of species has been plotted on the 1:1 500 000 map of the forest areas of the south-west using a 10° latitude by 10° longitude grid. On these maps, the symbol ● indicates that the specimen is held in the W.A. Museum (skin, skull or spirit) and has therefore been checked for identification. For some species, the symbol ◐ indicates that the specimen was discarded after the initial identification and should therefore be regarded as a Museum sighting.

In addition to the distribution maps, a list of the Museum numbers for each species and for each grid co-ordinate is available. By reference to these, further details (sex, date of collection, locality etc.) can be obtained. Copies of the complete set of data will be held at the Western Australian Museum, Head Office library and the Research Centres at Como, Dwellingup and Manjimup.

The records are those of modern mammals (circa 1896 onwards) and do not include fossil specimens, specimens held in other museums or the records contained in the publications of Thomas and Shortridge. There may be some limitations in interpreting the data.

Museum specimens may not cover the full range of the species and the absence of a specimen from an area cannot be taken as the absence of the species from that area. In some cases these maps reflect the distribution of population as much as the distribution of the animals.

Some of the older records may be incorrect in their location since, on occasions, the location of despatch rather than that of collection was used (e.g. three of the boodie rat specimens came from Forrest Street, Beverley).

No idea can be obtained of the density of the species, or of the habitat preferences. In some instances (e.g. honey possum, native cat) a single collector provided a large proportion of the specimens.

Discarded specimens may have been incorrectly identified and cannot be checked.

Nevertheless, these data provide a basis for the preparation of distribution maps for the mammals of the forest areas of this State. The curator of Mammals (Dr. D. Kitchener) considers it desirable that specimens which are dead when collected be lodged in the Museum, especially if an animal is rediscovered in an area after a long absence (e.g. woylies near Karridale, last collected in 1930), or when the geographical range of a species would be greatly extended (e.g. records of the fat-tailed dunnart in the southern forests). These specimens should preferably be sent by way of the nearest Research Centre, as suggested in the article by P. Christensen, which follows.

When the data on animal distributions currently available at the Dwellingup and Manjimup research centres are compiled in a similar form, it will greatly enhance our knowledge of the spatial distribution of these species. Blank maps will be made available to any officer who wishes to contribute on this subject if he contacts myself at Como Research.

The distribution map and list of Museum numbers for the western native cat are included with this article as an example of the information currently available.

Dasyurus geoffroii
Western native cat

LAT.	LONG.	MUSEUM NO.
31° 40'	116° 20'	M 4464
31° 50'	115° 40'	M 550, (M 1395)
31° 50'	115° 50'	M 311, (M 865) (M 1106) M 1318, M 1337, (M 1603) (M 1850) (M 2866), M 4702
31° 50'	116°	(M 323) (M 1035) (M 1282) (M 1829) (M 1831) (M 1838) M 1842, M 1863, M 1865, M 1866, M 1867, M 2062, M 2158, 2444, (M 2841)
31° 50'	116° 10'	M 5265, M 6797, M 6967, M 7160, M 7488,
32°	116°	M 1046, M 1294, M 6946
32°	116°	M 235, (M 1580) M 1581 (M 1583) M 2063, (M 2876) (M 2909) M 3075, M 6765, M 6766.
32°	116° 50'	(M 1128)
32° 10'	116°	M 6735, M 6928, M 7574
32° 10'	116° 10'	M 7575
32° 10'	116° 20'	M 4969
32° 20'	116°	M 1291, M 1326, M 1736, M 3359, M 3491, M 4098
32° 30'	116° 20'	M 4599, M 6582
32° 50'	115° 50'	M 1385
33°	115° 50'	(M 776)
33°	116° 50'	(M 3210)
33° 30'	115°	M 497
33° 30'	115° 40'	M 5123
33° 40'	115° 30'	M 6520
33° 50'	116°	M 548
34°	115°	(M 1824) (M 1825) M 1839, M 1852, M 1861
34°	116° 10'	M 1783, M 1784
34° 10'	115°	(M 1717)
34° 50'	117° 20'	M 6769
35°	117° 50'	M 6941

Specimens not retained by the Museum are bracketed

