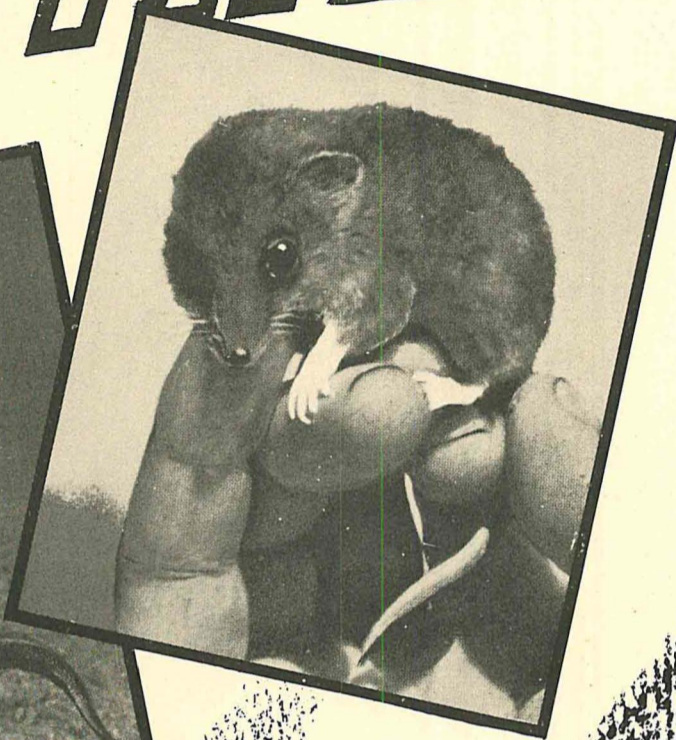
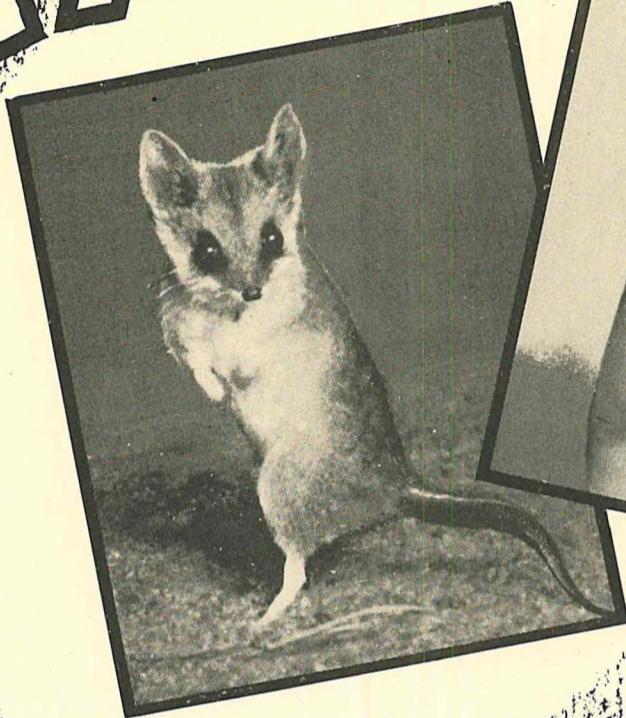


# Don't KILL THESE!



Photos Courtesy  
S. R. White

## THE DUNNARTS OR POUCHED MICE CAN EAT THEIR OWN WEIGHT IN GRASSHOPPERS IN ONE DAY!

There are two common species of this interesting and useful little marsupial in Western Australia, the one being more or less confined to the coast area and the other ranging into the far interior.

The first of these, the Long-tailed Dunnart is a slender and graceful little animal remarkably mouse-like in appearance, with mouse coloured fur and a long scaly tail. It is however built on finer lines, it has a sharp nose, large beady eyes and large ears.

The other, the Fat-tailed Dunnart, which is illustrated, is not so easily confused with the House Mouse as its general appearance is decidedly brownish and the tail, which is much shorter than that of the House Mouse, is very much swollen towards the base when the animal is in good condition. Both species have the face paler than the back with a dark stripe running from the muzzle through the eye to the ear. The chin and under surface are whitish and the feet pure white.

Both species are voracious and can take an enormous amount of insect food. One observed in the Eastern States, which weighed three-quarters of an ounce, ate in one night lizards and grubs weighing 1 ounce, and one kept in captivity at the Museum accounted for 50 grasshoppers in 24 hours.

The value of these little animals in the grasshopper-campaign can therefore be easily estimated.

