

Stripe-Faced Dunnarts vs Feral Cats

The Stripe-faced Dunnart is a rarely seen but widely ranging marsupial mouse found throughout the Pilbara. It is most easily identified by the stripe from the nose to between the ears and, in the case of well fed animals, a thick tail which is the result of the storage of excess food fats.

Analysis of feral cat gut samples in the Pilbara have indicated that this animal is suffering heavy predation by cats living in the wild. For example three cats taken at Karratha Station by Mr D. Cutting, September 1977, and forwarded for examination were found to have eaten geckoes, grasshoppers, snakes, centipedes and five Stripe-faced Dunnarts.

Dunnarts feed principally on insects, but mice, baby rats, small birds, lizards and centipedes may be taken, indicating that feral cats not only predate on Dunnarts but directly compete with them for food.



The rarely seen Stripe-faced Dunnart.