

FERRET SKULL RARE FIND

The skull of a ferret discovered by Honorary Fauna Warden H.L. Miller of Waroona has become a valuable addition to the Museum collection of the species Mustela putorius.

From the remains of the animal, which was discovered at Black Rock in the Yarloop area, a sketchy description was possible, the identification being made by Mr. J.L. Bannister, Curator of Mammals at the W.A. Museum.

Mr. Bannister said that the ferret was domesticated from the albino form of the European polecat probably because albinos are often more docile than the normal form. In Europe escaped ferrets have now interbred with wild polecats to such an extent that there are probably very few wild polecats left.

Ferrets were introduced fairly widely in Australia to help in reducing the rabbit population in the 1930's and Mr. Bannister believes that the specimen found at Black Rock could be a descendent of these.