

Dibbler

Parantechinus apicalis

Description



The dibbler is a small marsupial with coarse brownish-grey fur speckled with white.

It has distinctive white rings around the eyes and a tapering hairy tail.

Head-body
140-145mm

Tail
105-115mm

Weight
40-125g

Diet and habitat



Dibblers are most active at dawn and dusk and their main habitat is dense heath with lots of leaf litter.

These small carnivores feed mostly on ground-dwelling insects and other invertebrates. Sometimes they eat small lizards, birds and mammals. Dibblers also eat berries and lick nectar from flowers.

Breeding



The dibbler breeds once a year during autumn. A mating session may continue for several hours.

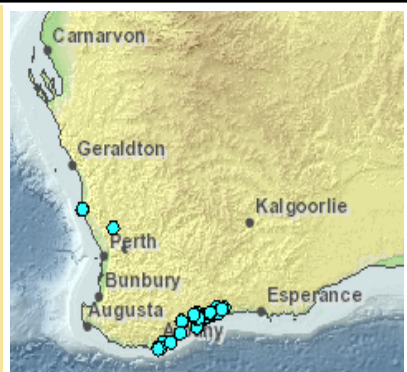
Young are 2mm long when born and females can carry as many as eight at one time in their pouch!

Gestation
44-52 days

No. young
6-8

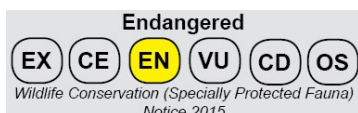
Weaned
3-4months

Distribution



Dibblers were once widespread in south-west WA. Believed extinct in early 1900s but found in 1967 on the WA south coast, and later on two WA islands. New populations have also been established through captive breeding programs. Dibblers will be returned to Dirk Hartog Island as part of the *Return to 1616* ecological restoration project.

Status



Dibblers are threatened by habitat loss caused by land clearing, die-back disease and wildfires. Predation by introduced predators is also a threat.

Fact sheet

SHARK BAY World Heritage



Department of
Parks and Wildlife

