

Desert mouse

Pseudomys desertor

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Description: This small stout native mouse has short limbs. Its fur is brown above with long black guard hairs that give it a grizzled appearance.

It is grey-brown underneath and has a distinctive pale ring around its eye.

Diet and Habitat: Desert mice live in arid inland areas in a variety of habitats but require areas with dense ground cover.

They are nocturnal and mostly solitary. Plant material makes up most of their diet and they spend the day sheltering in shallow burrows or underneath thick tussocks amongst dense vegetation.

Breeding: The desert mouse can breed throughout the year and has an average litter of three young. Desert mice are sexually mature at about 10 weeks of age.

Populations increase dramatically after good rainfall and increasing vegetation cover.

Distribution: The desert mouse is widespread across arid and semi-arid Australia. It is proposed for reintroduction to Dirk Hartog Island National Park as part of the *Return to 1616* Ecological Restoration Project for the purpose of reconstructing the island's fauna.

Quick facts

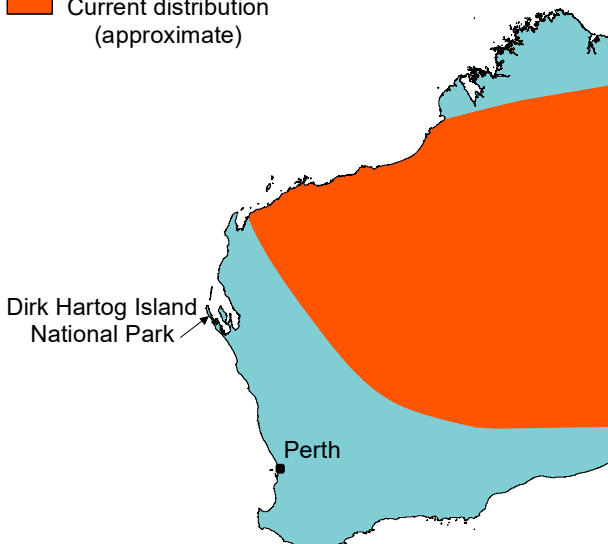
Head-body:	70 - 105mm
Tail:	67 - 105mm
Average weight:	15 - 35g
Gestation:	27 - 28 days
Number of young:	1 - 4
Mature:	10 weeks

Conservation Status

Desert mouse numbers fluctuate with environmental conditions and their range has extended further south in the past. Despite a decreasing population trend, it is not currently considered threatened.



Current distribution (approximate)



DID YOU KNOW?

Desert mice are folivores which are herbivores that specialise in leaf eating.