

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.

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 insectivores 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!

Distribution: Dibblers were once widespread in south-west Western Australia (WA). They were believed extinct in the early 1900s but found again in 1967 on the WA south coast and later on two WA islands.

New populations have also been established through Perth Zoo's captive breeding program on Escape and Gunton islands as well as Peniup nature reserve. Dibbler reintroductions to Dirk Hartog Island National Park as part of the *Return to 1616* Ecological Restoration Project began in 2019.

Quick facts


Head-body:	140 - 145mm
Tail:	95 - 115mm
Average weight:	40 - 125g
Gestation:	44 - 52 days
Number of young:	6 - 8
Weaned:	3 - 4 months

Conservation Status

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



Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018

 Current distribution (approximate)

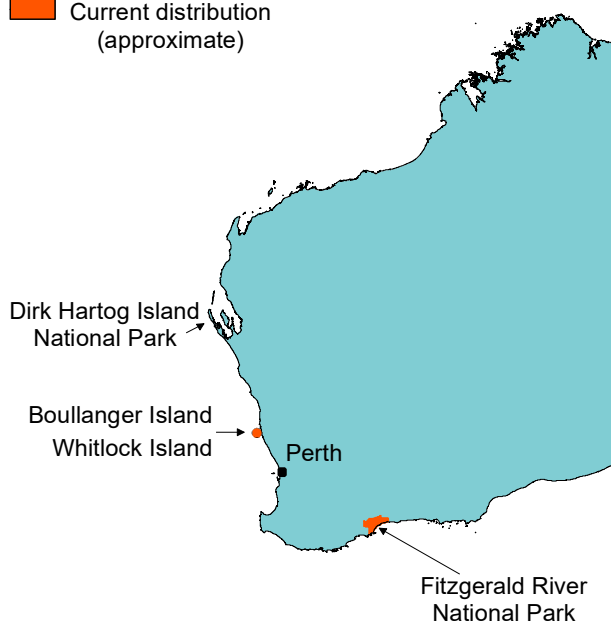


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DID YOU KNOW?

Dibblers were believed to have gone extinct until a pair were accidentally found in 1967.