

## *Conilurus albipes* White-footed Rabbit-rat

### Description

*Conilurus albipes*

The White-footed Tree-rat, also known as the White-footed Rabbit-rat, was an attractive squirrel-like rodent. It had a combined head and body length of 23–26 cm and a tail length of 22–24 cm. Its weight was estimated at around 200 grams. The species' most distinctive feature was its long, bushy tail, which was dark brown above and white below. Although smaller than a rabbit, the White-footed Tree-rat's colour and large, broad ears gave it a superficial resemblance to this species. (OEH 2017)

### Current conservation status

Listed as Threatened in Victoria under *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.

Listed as Extinct in Australia under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

### Proposed conservation status

Extinct (EX) in Victoria.

### Criteria for Extinct status

As per Schedule 1 of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Regulations 2020, the primary criterion for the category of threat 'extinct' is met if–

- (a) exhaustive surveys throughout the taxon's historic range fail to record an individual member of the taxon; and
- (b) those surveys were conducted over a time frame appropriate to the taxon's life cycle and life form, in known or expected habitat and at appropriate times (diurnal, seasonal, annual).

Historical records of the species were retrieved from the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas. A 50km buffer was placed around each location, and all surveys of appropriate surveying method to date were retrieved. In total, 30,087 appropriate surveys have taken place within the historic range with no records of *C. albipes* since 1846.

Victorian Biodiversity Atlas search results	
Number of known historical locations	11
Last known record	1846
Total recorded surveys to date within 50km of all historical locations	30,087
Survey methods searched	Cage trap, Camera - Surveillance/Remote, Camera - Thermal imaging, Elliott trap, Elliott trap Large, Faunatech hair tubes(bait type in X), Hair tube, Large cage trap, Large hair tubes, Point spot count, Scat



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	analysis, Scat census, Small hair tubes, Spotlighting, Spotlighting by area, Spotlighting on foot
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## Historical distribution

The former range of *Conilurus albipes* is not clear. (DSE 2003)

## References

DSE 2003. Flora and Fauna Action Statement No. 13: Extinct mammals 1.

OEH 2017. New South Wales, Office of Environment and Heritage: White-footed Tree-rat. Retrieved from: <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedSpeciesApp/profile.aspx?id=20199>