

Threatened Species Assessment

Lagorchestes leporides Eastern Hare-wallaby

Description

Lagorchestes leporides

The Eastern Hare-wallaby (*Lagorchestes leporides*) once also known as the Common Hare-wallaby, is an extinct species of wallaby that was native to south eastern Australia. It was a small macropod, slightly larger and more slender than its surviving relative the Rufous Hare-wallaby. It had a body length of about 50 cm and a 33 cm long tail. Its fur colour varied from black through brown to yellow with a grayish-white belly.

The last known specimen of this species was a female collected in August 1889 in New South Wales. There were no further sightings of this species, even though researchers well into the 1930s were still uncertain of its extinction. (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, 13,866 appropriate surveys have taken place within the historic range with no records of *L. leporides* since 1867.

Victorian Biodiversity Atlas search results	
Number of known historical locations	3
Last known record	1867
Total recorded surveys to date within 50km of all historical locations	13,866



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Survey methods searched

Cage trap, Camera - Surveillance/Remote, Hair tube, Large cage trap, Large hair tubes, Scat census, Spotlighting, Spotlighting by area, Spotlighting on foot

Historical distribution

This species once inhabited the interior of New South Wales, Victoria and the Murray River region of South Australia. It was common in the level country between the Murray and Darling rivers, as well as the Liverpool Plains. (OEH 2017)

References

OEH 2017. New South Wales: Office of Environment and Heritage. Eastern Hare-wallaby. Retrieved from: <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspeciesapp/profile.aspx?id=20195>