

Butler's Dunnart



Sminthopsis butleri

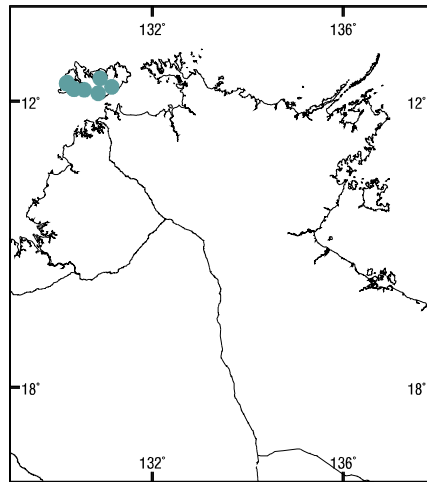


Figure 13-3: Butler's Dunnart and distribution map in the Northern Territory.

Description

Small carnivorous marsupial, head-body length 88 mm, tail 90 mm, average weight 15-30 g (Van Dyke & Strahan 2008)

Ecology

Little known, solitary, ground-dwelling, diet of invertebrates and small vertebrates, mostly recorded in tall eucalypt forest.

Distribution

Restricted to parts of the Tiwi islands and a small area of the northern Kimberley, WA (although it has not been recorded from WA since the initial three specimens were collected in 1965-6).

Conservation Status

EPBCA – Vulnerable; TPWCA – Vulnerable; Woinarski *et al.* (2014) – Near Threatened

Requires special protocols to sample or monitor effectively. Potential threats include land clearing, habitat degradation from weeds, and predation by feral cats and adverse fire regimes. On Melville Island, c 300 km² of potential habitat was cleared for *Acacia mangium* plantations in the past two decades (Woinarski 2004, Ward & Woinarski 2012).

North East Bathurst Island

There are no records of this species from North East Bathurst Island prior to 2014, although there had been no targeted sampling there. It was not captured in traps in the 2014 survey, but small dasyurids recorded by cameras at three sites are likely to be this species.

Links

http://www.lrm.nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0016/10834/Butlers_dunnart_VU_FINAL.pdf

http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=302

<http://www.environment.gov.au/resource/national-multi-species-recovery-plan-carpentarian-antechinus-pseudantechinus-mimulus>