

DIBBLER

Description

The Dibbler is a small marsupial with coarse brownish grey fur, speckled with white. It has distinctive white eye-rings and a tapering hairy tail. They are very agile animals and, despite spending much of their time on the ground, will often climb bushes to lick the nectar from flowers.

Diet

The Dibbler is a **carnivore** and feeds mostly on ground-dwelling insects and other invertebrates but will also eat small lizards, small birds and small mammals.

In the wild

Dibblers are **crepuscular** which means they are most active at dawn and dusk. Dibblers live in areas with lots of leaf litter. This provides them with their food supply of invertebrates. It also gives dibblers cover from predators.

Threats

The Dibbler is threatened by loss of habitat caused by land clearing, die-back disease and wildfires. They are also predated on by introduced predators such as foxes and cats.

At Perth Zoo

As part of its Native Species Breeding Program, the Zoo is breeding Dibblers to increase knowledge about them and to provide animals for release into predator safe, DEC managed areas on islands and the mainland. The first successful captive breeding of the Dibbler was in 1997. A new population has been established on Escape Island in Jurien Bay, and two mainland sites are also showing promising signs of successful establishment.

Dibblers can be seen in the **Nocturnal House** at Perth Zoo.

Did you know?

The Dibbler was thought to be extinct for 63 years! In 1967 a pair was collected by chance from Cheyne Beach on the south coast of Western Australia. Since then, only small numbers have been found in two isolated locations. The Dibbler used to be widespread throughout near-coastal areas across much of south-west WA and also on the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia.



Scientific Name

Parantechinus apicalis

Other names

Southern Dibbler

Conservation Status

Extinct

Extinct in the Wild

Critically Endangered

Endangered

Vulnerable

Near-Threatened

Least Concern

Data Deficient



Body Length: 14–15 cm

Weight: 40–100 g

Gestation: 44–52 days

Number of young: 6–8 young



Distribution ■

Distribution: Coastal south-west Western Australia

Habitat: Dense heath

