



GHOST BAT

Description

The Ghost Bat has a light grey, almost white, colouring and large long ears. The Ghost Bat's wing span is up to 60 cm wide.

Diet

It is Australia's only **carnivorous** bat and eats large insects, reptiles, frogs, birds, small mammals and, sometimes, other bat species. Much of this prey is captured on the ground.

In the wild

Mothers form nursery colonies separate from males until the young are able to hunt. Juveniles then hunt with their mothers until they become completely independent.

Threats

Populations are under threat due to changes in habitat and destruction of caves and mine shafts that the bats live in. Groups of over 400 are common and populations would decrease if their homes were destroyed.

At Perth Zoo

Perth Zoo received its first Ghost Bat colony in 1977. Their descendants are located in the **Nocturnal House** in several exhibits including one which is a replica of an Australian mine shaft. Come and see the Ghost Bats feed on most days at 11.45am.

Scientific Name

Macroderma gigas

Conservation Status

Extinct

Extinct in the Wild

Critically Endangered

Endangered

Vulnerable

Near-Threatened

Least Concern

Data Deficient

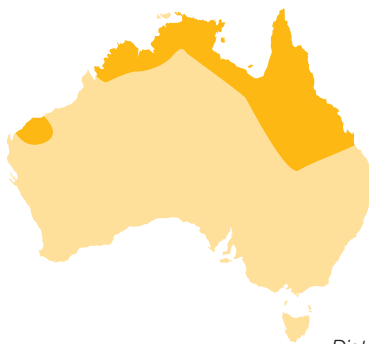


Body Length: 10–13 cm

Weight: 75–145 g

Gestation: 2.5–3 months

Number of young: 1



Distribution ■

Distribution: Northern Australia

Habitat: Cave systems and mineshafts in arid and rainforest areas

Did you know?

Ghost Bats use **echolocation** to find their food. Echolocation is a sensory system where the bats emit a high-pitched sound and listen to the echo to determine how far and in what direction objects are.

