



A Portal to the Pilbara's Threatened Fauna

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Background

The Pilbara region of Western Australia is home to a number of fauna species listed under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* including the greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*), mulgara (*Dasyercus spp.*), northern quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*), Pilbara leaf-nosed bat (*Rhinonictus aurantia*) and Pilbara olive python (*Liasis olivaceus barroni*).

One of the issues hindering conservation planning and management of these species is the lack of centralised, reliable and up to date information on where the species occur, or have occurred, in the Pilbara. Historically, distribution records incorporated into NatureMap were limited to captures and sightings, particularly during planned surveys. Other sources of evidence, such as tracks or scats, were not readily captured despite their potential value. This is especially important for many of the threatened Pilbara species which are cryptic, nocturnal and/or trap shy and therefore difficult to catch or see. By not recording these other sources of evidence our understanding of species distributions is not as good as it could be.

To address this issue, the Department of Parks and Wildlife has recently developed the Pilbara Threatened Fauna Data Entry System, accessible through NatureMap. This portal allows members of the community, mining industry, planning sector, consultants, educational institutions and government departments to register on the site, and view and contribute distribution records derived from a number of sources.



Likely Pilbara olive python habitat



Remote camera image of northern quoll



Bilby tracks

Findings

The new Pilbara Threatened Fauna theme provides species information, recommended survey methodology, photographs, key references and research currently being undertaken by the department in efforts to conserve and manage these threatened species.

In addition, the portal allows for the inclusion of presence records from a variety of sources including scats, tracks, burrows, diggings, shed skins, animal remains (carcass, bones), calls and remote camera images as well as sightings and captures. All contributed records are reviewed by a species

expert. The ability to incorporate these records and photographs in an easy to use format allows for a more robust review process and provides more comprehensive knowledge of species distributions.

Department of Environment and Conservation
NatureMap
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Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*)
 IUCN Listing: VULNERABLE
 EPBC (Commonwealth) Listing: VULNERABLE
 State (WA) Listing: SCHEDULE 1 - Fauna that is rare or is likely to become extinct
 Distribution: [Display records](#)
 Contribute: [Add records](#)

Description
 Nocturnal, burrowing marsupial with large ears, long pointed snout and a black tail with a white tip. Soft, blue-grey fur. Up to 55 cm long with a tail up to 29 cm long.

Distribution and Habitat
 Former distribution included arid and semiarid regions throughout most of the state. Now restricted to northern central deserts, southern Kimberley and Pilbara. Level or undulating plains including watercourses and dune systems, composed of cracking clay, soil or sand that allows burrowing, with vegetation consisting of open-bussock or hummock grassland (spinifex), with low shrubland, usually Acacia dominated. Habitat which is steep and/or rocky which does not allow burrowing may be used for foraging if it is adjacent to suitable burrowing habitat.

References
 Johnson, K.A. 2008. Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*). In: The mammals of Australia, pp. 49-50. Reed New Holland, Australia.
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 Southgate, R.I. 1990. Habitats and diet of the Greater Bilby *Macrotis lagotis* Reid (Marsupialia: Peramelidae). In: *Bandicoots and bilbies*. Surrey Beatty & Sons, Sydney.
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Management Implications

The introduction of the Pilbara Threatened Fauna Data Entry System extends the functionality of NatureMap and provides a central database for the storage and analysis of Pilbara Threatened Fauna distribution records. All records contributed to the database can be accessed through NatureMap, to which the database is integrally linked. This Pilbara Threatened Fauna Portal and Data Entry System provides a current and up to date, user contributable interface. There is scope to add more species to the portal in the future.

Reliability of records entered is enhanced since they are reviewed by species experts and there is the ability to add photographs. This portal will provide for a more thorough and reliable understanding of these species throughout the region and data gained through this portal will provide information, enabling better prioritisation of conservation and management measures for these species. It will also provide an up to date tool for environmental impact assessment and land-use planning to help ensure the conservation of these species for the future.

How you can contribute

Once registered with the Pilbara Threatened Fauna Data Entry System, observations, including any photographs, can be added to the database.

Anyone conducting monitoring, surveys or research involving these species are especially encouraged to upload their records to this system in addition to providing the compulsory fauna returns required by Parks and Wildlife licencing conditions. Online, user friendly, single or bulk upload interfaces are available.

For more information visit: <http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/threatenedfauna>

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Welcome to the Biological Data Recording System

This is an implementation of the Biological Data Recording System, software developed by Gaia Resources for the Atlas of Living Australia. It has been configured to integrate with the Naturemap system, providing a portal for entering sightings of Threatened Fauna for the Pilbara region.
 For more information please [contact us](#) at DPaW.

Latest Statistics

Number of users	12
Total number of records	935
Number of species recorded	2

The last sighting was a Bilby, *Macrotis lagotis* in the group Threatened Fauna.

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