FAUNA FACTS

Brush-tailed Phascogales

Conservation Status: Vulnerable and Conservation Dependent

Scientific Name: *Phascogale tapoatafa wambenger* (southwestern) and *Phascogale tapoatafa kimberleyensis* (Kimberley)

Location: In Western Australia, they are found in the southwest and in the Kimberley.

Where do they live?

In the southwest, brush-tailed phascogales are found in Jarrah forests. In the Kimberley, they are found in woodlands and grasslands with *Eucalyptus* and *Corymbia* trees.

Interesting facts

Phascogales are very good hunters. They mostly eat large insects and spiders and flower nectar, but they also sometimes like to eat small birds and small mammals.

They spend the daytime inside tree hollows. Mother's will also leave their young in a nest inside the hollow at night while looking for food.

Have you seen a phascogale?

Please let us know us if you have seen one by sending a fauna report form (on the Department's website www.dbca.wa.gov.au) to fauna@dbca.wa.gov.au.

What are phascogales?

Phascogales are a small marsupial and they spend most of their time in the trees. They have strong claws on their feet that allow them to grip onto bark and easily climb up and down trees.

What do they look like?

Brush-tailed phascogales are mostly dark grey with a creamy white belly. They have large, black eye and a pointed face. Like their name explains, they have a long black, bushy tail.

Photos: R. Lloyd/FaunaTrack

FAUNA FACTS

Red-tailed Phascogales

Conservation Status: Conservation Dependent

Scientific Name: *Phascogale calura*

Location: They are found in remnant vegetation in the southern Wheatbelt.

What do they look like?

Red-tailed phascogales are mostly ash-grey with a creamy-white belly. They have a dark patch in front of their eyes and reddish-brown ears. Like their name explains, they have a long reddish-brown tail that has a black brush on the end.

Photos: Bert and Babs Wells

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What are phascogales?

Phascogales are a small marsupial and they spend most of their time in the trees. They have strong claws on their feet that allow them to grip onto bark and easily climb up and down trees.

Where do they live?

Red-tailed phascogales used to live in arid and semi-arid parts of Australia, including in South Australia. They are now only found in small patches of forest in the Wheatbelt. They like to live in areas with Rock Sheaok and Wandoo trees.

Interesting facts

Phascogales are very good hunters. They mostly eat large insects and spiders and flower nectar, but they also sometimes like to eat small birds and small mammals.

They spend the daytime inside tree hollows. Mother's will also leave their young in a nest inside the hollow at night while looking for food.

Phascogales can leap up to 2 metres, and so they can travel very easily between trees, and they don't have to come down to the ground very often.