

CATALOGUE OF MAMMAL TYPES (CLASS MAMMALIA) IN THE  
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF VICTORIABy JOAN M. DIXON  
Curator of Vertebrates**Abstract**

Types of 25 mammal species and sub-species are presented in the catalogue. They comprise marsupials, a cetacean, a choripteran and rodents. Description of these types has been spread over more than a century, 1866-1967.

**Introduction**

The mammal collections in the National Museum of Victoria have been built up from 1854, and include the types of many native Australian species. Professor Frederick McCoy, the first Director of the Museum, contributed to this field of endeavour, and one of his species, *Gymnobelideus leadbeateri*, is known only from Victoria. Following McCoy's death in 1899, Professor W. Baldwin Spencer, Professor of Biology at the University of Melbourne, was appointed Honorary Director of the Museum, and soon afterwards the National Museum collections were moved from their original location at the University to the Public Library buildings. Included in these collections were the types of a number of marsupials described by Spencer from material collected when he was zoologist on the Horn Expedition to Central Australia, from May to August 1894. Specimens from Central Australia were also procured by Spencer and for some of them he erected further species.

A collection of rodents obtained during and shortly after the return of the Horn Expedition was sent by Spencer to E. R. Waite, zoologist at the Australian Museum, Sydney. Waite named several new species in this collection and according to the Australian Museum mammal register he retained the type (= holotype) of each and returned the balance of the specimens to Spencer. On a number of widely separated occasions after Spencer became Museum Director, portions of his Central Australian collections were transferred to the Museum from the Zoology Department of the University of Melbourne. Due to this transfer of specimens to the National Museum in several stages, and the distribution of part of Spencer's collections to various other institutions, considerable confusion has arisen in the literature concerning the location of types of several of his Australian mammal species.

The Spencer mammal collection is a valuable one of both historical and scientific significance. However, the passage of time has resulted in considerable difficulty in identification of much of the type material. Some specimens have vanished, possibly destroyed, while others have lost most of their data. Much of the catalogue relies on information preserved in archival records, coupled with detailed examination of existing material and type descriptions. Subsequent National Museum research workers have also erected new species.

In the preparation of this catalogue, the museum register of the Zoology Department of the University of Melbourne has been of considerable value, enabling the recognition of specimens transferred from there to this Museum. Condition of specimens is generally not listed. Old spirit specimens as a rule exhibit some slipping of the skin, but this does not prevent ready identification. Unless otherwise indicated, spirit specimens mentioned in the catalogue have not had the skulls extracted.

The following abbreviations have been used: AMNH = American Museum of Natural History; Aust. Mus. = Australian Museum, Sydney; BM = British Museum (Natural History); F & W = Fisheries and Wildlife Department, Melbourne; MCZ = Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard; MUZD = Museum of the Zoology Department, University of Melbourne; NMV = National Museum of Victoria; QVM = Queen Victoria Museum, Launceston; Zool. & Accl. Soc. = Zoological and Acclimatization Society of Victoria. Australian States and territories are abbreviated as: N.T. = Northern Territory, N.S.W. = New South Wales, Q'd. = Queensland, S.A. = South Australia, Tasm. = Tasmania, Vict. = Victoria, W.A. = Western Australia.

## Class MAMMALIA

## Order MARSUPIALIA

## Family DASYURIDAE

Genus *Dasyuroides* Spencer, 1896*Dasyuroides byrnei* Spencer, 1896

*Rept. Horn Sci. Exped. Centr. Austr., Zool. 2: 36-40, pl. 3, figs. 1, 1a, 1b; pl. 4, figs. 1-4.*

LECTOTYPE: C6323, male in spirit, Charlotte Waters, N.T., Feb. 1895, presented W. B. Spencer 18 Dec. 1895, specimen 'a' of description (old nos. R12318, 56417).

PARALECTOTYPES: C459, male in spirit, Charlotte Waters, N.T., Mar. 1895, specimen 'c' of description; C460, female in spirit, Charlotte Waters, N.T., April 1895, specimen 'b' of description; C4816, male in spirit, skull missing, Charlotte Waters, N.T., May 1895, may be specimen 'g' of description (old no. R12427); C6157, male, skull only, Central Australia, quoted in description and figured, may be skull of C4816 and also specimen 'g' (old nos. R4630, MUZD No. 934). Specimen 'e', formerly housed at the MUZD has not been located.

NOTES: A preliminary description of this species was read to the Royal Society of Victoria, June 1895, but not published until April 1896 (*Proc. Roy. Soc. Vict.* 8: 6-8). In the interim, a more detailed description was published in the Horn Report (Feb. 1896). No holotype was designated, but seven syntypes were listed. It appears that Spencer intended C6323, labelled type, to be the holotype, so it is erected as lectotype. Tate (1947) comments 'Types probably in Sydney Museum (*byrnei* from Charlotte Waters)'. There are two 'Spencer' specimens in the Aust. Mus. from Charlotte Waters, Reg. Nos. male M1140 and female M1141.

Genus *Phascogale* Temminck, 1824*Phascogale macdonnellensis* Spencer, 1895

*Proc. Roy. Soc. Vict.* 7: 222-223.

= *Antechinus macdonnellensis* (Spencer).

SYNTYPE: C7804, female in spirit, Alice Springs, N.T., collected Mounted Trooper South, Horn Expedition, May-Aug. 1894 (old no. 56415 or 56416).

NOTES: NMV mammal register indicates that there were two specimens, male and female. Spencer mentioned female only, and his label 'type' is attached to this specimen.

Genus *Sminthopsis* Thomas, 1887*Sminthopsis larapinta* Spencer, 1896

*Rept. Horn Sci. Exped. Centr. Austr., Zool. 2: 33-35, pl. 2, figs. 2, 2a, 2b.*

LECTOTYPE: C6207, adult male in spirit from Charlotte Waters, N.T., collected P. M. Byrne, donated W. B. Spencer, 7 Jan. 1896. Specimen 'a' of description

(old nos. R12317, 56441). There should be two paralectotypes, but these have not been located.

NOTES: This species was intended to be named from a single specimen in *Proc. Roy. Soc. Vict.* 8: 8-9 which was issued April 1896. However, due to delay in publication the Horn Report with its fuller description took priority. It is possible that Spencer intended C6207 to be the holotype because he labelled it 'type', and it has therefore been erected as lectotype.

***Sminthopsis longicaudatus* Spencer, 1909**

*Proc. Roy. Soc. Vict.* 21: 449-451.

HOLOTYPE: C7803, adult male in spirit (skull extracted), W.A., donated G. A. Keartland (old no. R4648).

NOTES: Troughton (1965) comments that L. Glauert, when Curator of the Perth Museum, concluded that Keartland had obtained this specimen in the Pillendinnie (Marble Bar) region of W.A.

***Sminthopsis murina constricta* Spencer, 1896**

*Rept. Horn Sci. Exped. Centr. Austr.*, Zool. 2: 33.

= *Sminthopsis macrura constricta* (Spencer) following Tate 1947.

? HOLOTYPE: C6920, young male, Oodnadatta, N.T., Horn Expedition, May-Aug. 1894 (old no. R12514).

NOTES: As far as can be determined no record of this taxon exists apart from the above specimen. Unfortunately the NMV specimen does not correspond in sex or measurements to the one used in the description.

***Sminthopsis psammophilus* Spencer, 1895**

*Proc. Roy. Soc. Vict.* 7: 223-224.

HOLOTYPE: C6203, male in spirit, plus skull, collected near Lake Amadeus, N.T., during Horn Expedition, May-Aug. 1894 (old no. R12314).

Family MACROPODIDAE

Genus ***Bettongia*** Gray, 1837

***Bettongia tropica*** Wakefield, 1967

*Vict. Nat.* 84: 15-21, pl. 3.

HOLOTYPE: C6870, adult male, skin and skull, Mount Spurgeon, 3,700', NE. Q'd., collected P. J. Darlington, 24 July 1932.

NOTES: There are two paratypes in MCZ (Nos. 29205, 29206); two in the AMNH (Nos. 65279, 65280); and a sixth specimen in the Zoological Museum of the Oslo University, Norway.

Genus ***Halmaturus*** Illiger, 1811

***Halmaturus wilcoxi*** McCoy, 1866

*Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* (3) 18: 322-323.

= *Thylogale stigmatica wilcoxi* (McCoy).

LECTOTYPE: C7083, female, skin, skull in skin, Richmond R., N.S.W., collected J. F. Wilcox (old nos. R122, 18939).

PARALECTOTYPE: C7084, male, data as for lectotype (old nos. R2028, 18940).

NOTES: In the description McCoy listed Richmond R., N.S.W., as type locality. Labels attached to type specimens and entries in registers indicated Clarenc River,

N.S.W., however, reference to archival correspondence between McCoy and Wilcox, Jan.-July 1866, in the NMV has established the Richmond R. as the correct locality.

Thomas (1888) mentions that there were 'stuffed specimens', male and female, and skeletons of Richmond R. specimens. Skeletons have not been located.

Family PERAMELIDAE

Genus **Peragale** Thomas, 1887

**Peragale minor** Speneer, 1897

*Proc. Roy. Soc. Vict.* 9: 6-9, pl. 2, figs. 1-4.  
= *Macrotis minor* (Spencer).

**HOLOTYPE:** C7091, adult male in spirit, skull missing, specimen 'e', Sept. 1895 (old no. R12430); C7294, adult male, skull figured, probably from C7091 (old nos. R4629, MUZD No. 1034). From sand-hills about forty miles NE. Charlotte Waters, N.T., collected P. M. Byrne.

**PARATYPES:** C7086, adult female in spirit, specimen 'a' (old no. R12604); C7090, adult female in spirit, plus skull, specimen 'b', 16 Sept. 1895 (old no. R12429); C7295, adult female in spirit, specimen 'd' of description (old nos. R12313, 56926). Localities as for holotype. Condition of spirit specimens poor.

**NOTES:** Four of the five specimens of the type series are accounted for. In the NMV collections are two pouch young C7088, C7089 which may belong to C7086. Although specimens of this series were presented to the Museum on different dates, it has been deduced from examination that all were collected around Sept. 1895. Designation of the holotype follows Troughton (1932).

**Perameles eremiana** Speneer, 1897

*Proc. Roy. Soc. Vict.* 9: 9-11, pl. 2, figs. 5-7.

**HOLOTYPE:** C5864, adult male in spirit from sand-hills about forty miles NE. Charlotte Waters, N.T. (old nos. R12312, 56928).

**PARATYPE:** C213, skull, labelled Charlotte Waters (MUZD No. 1031), corresponds in dimensions to female skull of description and may belong to spirit specimen C488 without head, a female with four enlarged nipples. Pouch young C5862 and C5863 labelled Central Australia may also belong to C488.

**NOTES:** In description of this taxon, Speneer cites localities for types as Charlotte Waters area and Burt Plain N. of Aliee Springs. Specimens for this description were received from F. J. Gillen of Aliee Springs and from P. M. Byrne of Charlotte Waters. It is not possible to accurately nominate the Burt Plain specimen.

Family PHALANGERIDAE

Genus **Cercartetus** Gloger, 1841

**Cercartetus concinnus minor** Wakefield, 1963

*Vict. Nat.* 80: 100-101.

**HOLOTYPE:** C7802, male, skin and skull, Nureoung, 10 m NW. of Natimuk, Viet., collected F. Saunders, Sept. 1962 (F & W 328).

Genus **Gymnobelideus** McCoy, 1867

**Gymnobelideus leadbeateri** McCoy, 1867

*Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* (3) 20: 287-288, pl. 6, figs. 1-5.

**LECTOTYPE:** C4380, male, skin and skull, Bass R., Viet., registered in NMV, July 1867 (old nos. R12367, 21617).

PARALECTOTYPE: C4379, male, skin with skull in skin, Bass R., Vict., registered in NMV, July 1867 (old nos. R12366, 21616).

NOTES: C4380 is erected as lectotype because, as far as can be determined, it was the only skull available at the time; it was figured in the description and dimensions given. Brazenor (1932) corrects McCoy's statement that both sexes were present in the original series.

Family VOMBATIDAE

Genus *Phascolomys* Duméril, 1806

*Phascolomys tasmaniensis* Spencer & Kershaw, 1910

*Mem. nat. Mus. Vict.* 3: 52-58, pl. 9, figs. 2, 4, 6, 7; pl. 11, figs. 2, 5, 7, 8, 10, 14. Tables 4, 6, 7, 10.

= *Vombatus ursinus* (Spencer and Kershaw).

HOLOTYPE: C2057, male, skin (mounted), skull and skeleton, Tasmania, presented Zool. & Accl. Soc., 19 Dec. 1864 (may be date of registration), No. 3 of table 4, pl. 9, fig. 4 (old no. 15122).

PARATYPES: C6664, juvenile female, skin and skull, Tasm., presented Zool. & Accl. Soc., 5 Jan. 1901. Table 4, no. 10 (old nos. R370-1); C6666, male, skin, skull and skeleton, Tasm., presented Zool & Accl. Soc., 6 Sept. 1907, pl. 9, fig. 6 (old nos. R2390-2); C6680, female, skull and skeleton, N. Tasm., ex QVM, Launceston, Tasm., 7 Aug. 1903, pl. 11, fig. 14 (old nos. R2345-6).

NOTES: Only the above three paratypes have been positively identified from the labels or plates accompanying the description. The following seven listed specimens are probably included in type series. All were received prior to the date of publication of this taxon, and represent the NMV collection of Tasmanian wombat material at that period: C6681, male, skull and skeleton, Tasm., purchased W. McGowan, Launceston, 5 Feb. 1909 (old nos. R2906-7); C6682, female, skull and skeleton, Tasm., purchased W. McGowan, 14 Oct. 1908 (old nos. R2859-60); C6683, male, skull and skeleton, presented Zool. & Accl. Soc., 14 June 1909 (old nos. R3018-9); C6684, male, skull and skeleton, Tasm., purchased W. McGowan, 13 June 1908 (old nos. R2656-7); C6685, female, skull and skeleton, Tasm., presented Zool. & Accl. Soc., 11 Oct. 1907 (old nos. R2457-8); C6686, female, skull and skeleton, Tasm., purchased W. McGowan, 13 June 1908 (old nos. R2658-9); C6687, female, skull end skeleton, Tasm. (old no. R2661).

Order CETACEA

Family BALAENOPTERIDAE

Genus *Physalus* Lacépède 1804

*Physalus grayi* McCoy, 1867

*Rec. Intercol. Exhib. Austr.* Melbourne IV.  
= *Balaenoptera physalus* Linnaeus 1758.

HOLOTYPE: Skeleton from Jan Juc, Vict., 1867, formerly lodged at the University of Melbourne. Present whereabouts unknown, possibly destroyed.

Order CHIROPTERA

Family VESPERTILIONIDAE

Genus *Chalinolobus* Peters, 1866

*Chalinolobus dwyeri* Ryan, 1966

*J. Mammal.* 47: 89.

HOLOTYPE: C4021, male, spirit specimen (skull extracted), from mine tunnel, Copeton, 14 m S. of Inverell, N.S.W., collected P. D. Dwyer, 7 Feb. 1962.

PARATYPE: C4020, female, data as for holotype.

*Conilurus pedunculatus pedunculatus* Waite, 1896

*Rept. Horn Sci. Exped. Centr. Austr.*, Zool. 2: 395-398, pl. 25, figs. 1a-f.

= *Zyomys (Laomys) pedunculatus* (Waite).

SYNTYPE: C7806, male in spirit (old nos. R12316, 57122), labelled 'F, June 1895, Alice Springs, 3 instal.'

NOTES: There is some confusion about location of the specimens in the type series of this taxon. C7806 cannot be F of the series as F has skull extracted and is var. *brachyotis*. Labels may have been mixed during previous examination of material. Tate (1951) says 'Co-types—Sydney, a skin with skull inside; BM No. 97.1.8.5, young female, body in alcohol, skull cleaned, from Alice Springs, Central Australia, collected by W. A. Horn . . . BM No. 97.1.8.4, adult male, in alcohol, which is probably another co-type'. In actual fact none of these specimens was collected by Horn. Waite (1896), p. 394, mentions that Spencer furnished him with the material. MUZD catalogue of biological specimens lists No. 1006 as a 'co-type' from Alice Springs, donated by W. B. Spencer and identified by Waite. There is no indication of the final destination of this specimen. The Aust. Mus. received two specimens from Spencer in 1896, M1064 skin with skull in skin, specimen A in paper, labelled 'type'; M1065 skin with skull in skin, specimen G in paper (var. *brachyotis*) labelled 'type'. In Nov. 1896 another specimen, M1158 from Central Australia (skin, skull in skin), was received from Horn, and in 1898, M1298 from Spencer from Alice Springs.

Genus *Leggadina* Thomas, 1910*Leggadina hermannsburgensis brazenori* Troughton, 1937

*Rec. Aust. Mus.* 20: 187-188.

HOLOTYPE: C984 skin and skull specimen No. 1, collected from Junction of Murray and Darling Rivers on Blandowski Expedition of 1857.

PARATYPES: C985-C1006. Collection data as above. Blandowski numbers are bracketed. C985 skin and skull, No. 2 (1399); C986 skin and skull; skin, skull in skin C987, C988 (825), C989 (1371), C990 (1934), C991, C992 (1835), C993 (827), C994 (790); C995 skin only; skin, skull in skin C996-C998; skin skull fragmented C999 (1333); skin, skull in skin C1000 (1332), C1001, C1002, C1003 (819), C1004, C1005 (848), C1006; mounted specimens 21677 (1093), 21678 (1661). Twenty-seven specimens are listed in the description but only the above 25 have been located. All except the holotype are in poor condition. There are parts of skins with Blandowski numbers 821, 1336 and 1376.

NOTES: The holotype C984 was designated lectotype by Troughton. There are anomalies concerning the dimensions of the type. Measurements made by Brazenor (1936) and copied and quoted by Troughton (1937) do not fit C984 or C985. Those on the label of C984 were made by Hinton of the BM in 1936 and are H.B. 74; T.L. 71; H.F. 19.5; E. 16.5. The small discrepancy between Brazenor's and Hinton's measurements of C984 are attributed to individual differences in measuring techniques. It appears that labels on skulls of C984 and C985 were mixed during previous work and during current examination the liberty of righting them has been taken.

Genus *Mastacomys* Thomas, 1882*Mastacomys fuscus brazenori* Ride, 1956

*Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* 127: 436.

**HOLOTYPE:** C199, male, skin and skull, Olangolah near Beech Forest, at head of Gellibrand R., 1800', Vict., collected C. W. Brazenor, 22 Oct. 1933. Skull badly fractured.

Genus *Mus* Linnaeus, 1758*Mus hermannsburgensis* Waite, 1896

*Rept. Horn Sci. Exped. Centr. Austr.*, Zool. 2: 405-406, pl. 26, figs. 5a-f.  
= *Leggadina hermannsburgensis* (Waite).

? **PARALECTOTYPES:** C4879, female, skin, skull missing, Hermannsburg, N.T., Feb. 1895 (old no. R12339); C7807, male in spirit, Central Australia, donated W. B. Spencer (old nos. R12315, 57126); C7808, female in spirit, Hermannsburg, N.T., donated W. B. Spencer (old no. R12340).

**NOTES:** In the description of this taxon five specimens A, B, C, D, and E are listed, one male (A) and four females (B and C had the skulls extracted). The NMV specimens listed above do not disagree with this. Lectotype M1070A, one of the two original specimens of *Mus hermannsburgensis* in the Aust. Mus., sex not determinable (mounted specimens), was selected by Troughton 1932. Tate (1951) lists 'paratypes' BM Nos. 97.1.8.1-97.1.8.3, adult male and two females (in spirit) from Hermannsburg Mission, Central Australia, collected by W. A. Horn.

Genus *Notomys* Lesson, 1842*Notomys amplus* Brazenor, 1936

*Mem. nat. Mus. Vict.* 9: 7-8, pl. 1, fig. 2.

**HOLOTYPE:** C512, female, skin and skull, Charlotte Waters, N.T., from P. M. Byrne, June 1896.

**PARATYPE:** C513, female in spirit. Locality and dates as for holotype.

**NOTE:** Tate (1951) says that the holotype C512 was collected by the Horn Expedition. It was in fact acquired after the return of that Expedition.

*Notomys mitchellii alutacea* Brazenor, 1934

*Mem. nat. Mus. Vict.* 8: 79-80, 88-9, pl. 5., fig. 4; pl. 6, figs. 3a-c; pl. 7.  
= *Notomys mitchellii* (Gould).

**HOLOTYPE:** C38, female, skin and skull, Ooldea, S.A., collected J. A. Kershaw, July 1921.

**PARATYPES:** C39, skin and skull, W.A., donated W. Webb, 16 Feb. 1875; C40-42, data as for holotype. Only four of nine paratypes have been located. Central Australian material has not been sighted. Date of donation of C39 is given as 16 Feb. 1875 in museum register and as 1865 by Brazenor in his paper. Archival material indicates that 1875 is correct.

Genus *Podanomalus* Waite, 1898*Podanomalus aistoni* Brazenor, 1934

*Mem. nat. Mus. Vict.* 8: 84-85, 88-89, pl. 6, figs. 5a-c, table.  
= *Notomys cervinus* (Gould).

**HOLOTYPE:** C7818, male, skin and skull, Mulka, E. of Lake Eyre, S.A., collected G. Aiston, October 1932 (old no. R13740).

**PARATYPES:** C7809, male in spirit (old no. R13709); C7810, female in spirit

(old no. R13726); C7811, male in spirit (old no. 13729); C7812, male in spirit (old no. R13730); C7813, male in spirit, skull extracted (old no. R13732); C7814, male in spirit (old no. R13734); C7815, male in spirit (old no. R13735); C7816, female skin and skull (old no. R13727); C7817, labelled male (female in paper) skin and skull (old no. R13741); C7819, labelled male (female in paper) skin without skull (old no. R13712). Locality data as for holotype.

NOTES: R13731 was sent to the AMNH, 27 April 1937, and R13733 to the BM, 16 Oct. 1936. Brazenor mentions that he examined 15 specimens, but only 13 are listed. In the same paper, p. 82, he identifies R13734-5 (C7814-5) as *Notomys cervinus*.

#### Genus *Pseudomys* Gray, 1832

##### *Pseudomys (Gyomys) fumeus* Brazenor, 1934

*Mem. nat. Mus. Vict.* 8: 158-9, pl. 18, figs. a-c.

HOLOTYPE: C197, adult male, skin and skull, Turton's Pass, Otway Forest, Vict., collected C. W. Brazenor, 20 Oct. 1933.

PARATYPE: C198, adult male in spirit, same locality and collector, 29 Oct. 1933.

#### Genus *Rattus* Fischer, 1803

##### *Rattus greyi ravus* Brazenor, 1936

*Mem. nat. Mus. Vict.* 10: 69, pl. 13, fig. 3, preoccupied name, see under.

##### *Rattus greyi peccatus* Troughton, 1937

*Rec. Aust. Mus.* 20: 189, footnote (new name for *ravus* Brazenor).  
= *Rattus fuscipes greyi* (Gray).

LECTOTYPE: C688, female, skin and skull, Portland, Vict., collected 12 June 1933, donated F. Wood-Jones.

PARALECTOTYPE: C759, male, skin, skull missing, Portland, Vict., collected C. W. Brazenor, 15 Aug. 1933. To this type series Brazenor's Portland rats, table, p. 68, should be added. However, these cannot be identified.

NOTES: Troughton (1937) notes that *Rattus greyi ravus* Brazenor was preoccupied by *Epimys* (= *Rattus*) *ravus* Robinson and Kloss (1916). Finlayson (1960) considers that the differences separating *Rattus assimilis* and *Rattus greyi* are more than subspecific. However, as a result of cross-breeding experiments, Horner and Taylor (1965) place *Rattus assimilis* and *Rattus greyi* as subspecies of *Rattus fuscipes*.

##### *Rattus tunneyi dispar* Brazenor, 1936

*Mem. nat. Mus. Vict.* 9: 5-7, pl. 1, figs. 1a, b.

HOLOTYPE: C4908, male, skin and skull, N.T., collected on Horn Expedition, May-Aug. 1894 (old no. R12642).

PARATYPES: C514, male in spirit; C515, male in spirit; C516, female in spirit, exchanged to the AMNH 1937; C517-23, females in spirit; C524, male, skin and skull. All from Alice Springs, N.T., donated W. B. Spencer, 23 March 1916. In his description Brazenor mentions that twelve specimens were examined from Alice Springs and unspecified areas of Central Australia. Only the Alice Springs paratypes can be accounted for.

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