

Appendix A. Accounts for taxa that are Not Evaluated

Species Conservation Summary

Sooty Dunnart

Sminthopsis fuliginosa (Gould, 1852)

Dasyuridae

Conservation status

Not evaluated

Justification

Sminthopsis fuliginosa was described by John Gould (Gould 1852). However, it is considered likely that this taxon is not distinct from *S. griseoventer* (see Taxonomy section).

Previous Action Plan assessment

The Sooty Dunnart has not been included in any Australian Action Plan.

IUCN Red List status (2012)

Data Deficient (Burbidge 2008d)

EPBC Act status (2012)

Not listed

Legal status in range State

Western Australia not listed

Taxonomy

The Sooty Dunnart was described as *Antechinus fuliginosus* by Gould (1852) from specimens collected by John Gilbert in the south-west of Western Australia. *Antechinus fuliginosus* is now considered to be a *Sminthopsis* (Kitchener *et al.* 1984). In Gould's (1852) accounts of *Antechinus fuliginosus* and *A. albipes* Waterhouse, 1842 ('The Mammals of Australia' Volume 1, plates 41 and 42), he appears to have divided a number of Dunnarts collected by Gilbert in Western Australia between the two accounts. Specimens in the account for *Antechinus fuliginosus* were recorded as being those Gilbert called 'Twoor-dong' and were from King George's Sound (now King George Sound) near Albany. Those from the area around Perth were recorded under Gould's account for *A. albipes* (now considered to be a synonym of *S. murina* (Kitchener *et al.* 1984), which does not occur in Western Australia). Gilbert considered the specimens from Albany to be a different species from those from near Perth (Whittell 1954, pp. 108–109 and footnote on p. 108). Therefore, Gilbert's specimens of the

'Twoor-dong' from King George Sound should be considered the type specimens for the name *Antechinus fuliginosus* Gould, 1842. These comprise three skulls in the Natural History Museum, London (considered syntypes by Mahoney and Ride 1988, pp. 29–30).

Sminthopsis fuliginosa was considered for some time to be a synonym of *S. murina* (Waterhouse, 1838). Kitchener *et al.* (1984) decided not to use *S. fuliginosa* for any of the four species of *Sminthopsis* in the 'murina' complex that they described, three of which were from south-western Australia – *S. dolichura*, *S. gilberti* and *S. griseoventer*. Regarding *S. fuliginosa*, they expressed 'doubts concerning its type locality and the material selected to represent the type' (p. 243) and provided a lengthy discussion of these issues. They briefly mentioned the three skulls in London but concluded that they might comprise different taxa and were unable to match them conclusively to any of the species under consideration.

P. Jenkins, Natural History Museum, London, has been kind enough to provide measurements and descriptions of Gilbert's King George Sound skulls. These were examined by N. McKenzie, who identified numerous *Sminthopsis* from south-western Australia during the biological survey of the Western Australian wheatbelt (A. H. Burbidge *et al.* 2004). N. McKenzie also provided an unpublished key to the three species to P. Jenkins. Both agree (P. Jenkins *pers. comm.*; N. McKenzie *pers. comm.*) that the skulls are closest to Kitchener *et al.*'s *S. griseoventer*. Since 1984, there has been extensive small mammal trapping in the south-west of Western Australia and the status and distribution of the three currently-recognised south-west Australian *Sminthopsis* species in the 'murina' complex are well understood, although many museum specimens are probably mis-identified (N. McKenzie *pers. comm.*). As the type locality of *S. fuliginosa* is King George Sound (Albany), on the basis of known distributions, *S. griseoventer* is the likely synonym as neither *S. dolichura* nor *S. gilberti* occurs there.

Thomas (1888) designated BMNH 1844.2.15.20 as the lectotype for *A. fuliginosus*. The locality in the Natural History Museum, London, register for Thomas' lectotype is 'Hill sides on the Banks of the Avon, W.A.', and the date of collection by John Gilbert is 17 August 1842 (P. Jenkins, Natural History Museum, London *pers. comm.*). In August 1842, Gilbert 'was collecting in his old