



BRUSH-TAILED POSSUM

Trichosurus vulpecula



The brush-tailed possum is a nocturnal and herbivorous marsupial. It is widely distributed in its native Australian environment and has been released into New Zealand, becoming one of the country's most important vertebrate pests. The brush-tailed possum's fur color varies greatly from one region to the next. These animals have two breeding seasons, one in the spring and one in the fall, but a female rarely gives birth twice in a year. Brush-tailed possums have a high-mortality rate: 75 percent of these possums die before reaching the age of one year. This animal is also a known carrier of bovine tuberculosis.



SPECIES QUICK FACTS

SIZE

The brush-tailed possum averages between 16 and 18 inches in length.

WEIGHT

The adult brush-tailed possum weighs between three and eight pounds.

FOOD HABITS

The brush-tailed possum eats virtually all kinds of vegetation, but one of its favorite food sources is the eucalyptus flower.

HABITAT

The brush-tailed possum is found in a variety of different habitats throughout its range, but it is most commonly found in forested regions.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The brush-tailed possum has the largest geographic distribution of any Australian animal. It is found throughout Australia and Tasmania, and it has also been introduced into New Zealand.

FUN FACT

Researchers studying the brush-tailed possum have found that this animal can digest a large number of highly toxic flowers and leaves.