

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

A. PROPOSAL

Deletion of Pseudomys shortridgei from Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT

The Commonwealth of Australia.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

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| 11. Class: | Mammalia |
| 12. Order: | Rodentia |
| 13. Family: | Muridae |
| 14. Species: | <u>Pseudomys shortridgei</u> |
| 15. Common Names: | English: heath rat, blung-faced rat,
blunt-faced mouse,
Shortridge's native mouse,
heath mouse
French: fausse souris de Shortridge
Spanish: Ratón bastardo crestado |
| 16. Code Numbers: | |

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: Originally found in both Western Australia and southwestern Victoria, found now only in western Victoria.
22. Population: Pseudomys shortridgei is dependent on regenerating vegetation in recently burn areas and, therefore, populations decline as the area of heathland vegetation matures. Unless suitable adjacent habitat is available, more widespread extinction ensues.
23. Habitat: P. shortridgei is principally confined to heath communities and appears to require the presence of a number of plant species the availability and density of which is dependent upon specific suitable fire regimes.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: None.
32. Legal International Trade: Exportation of native Australian wildlife is regulated by the Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1982. No specimen of P. shortridgei has been exported since the Act came into force on 1 May 1984.
33. Illegal Trade: None.

4. Protection Status

41. National: Protected in Victoria under the Wildlife Act 1975.

42. International: Currently listed in Appendix II of CITES.

43. Additional Protection Needs: None.

5. Information on Similar Species

Of the nineteen species comprising the genus Pseudomys, only two species occur in the same geographical region as P. shortridgei. All three species appear to be dependent on a fire regime for their habitat.

P. apodemoides is smaller than P. shortridgei and is also a lighter silver-grey colour, compared with the grey-brown colour of P. shortridgei. P. fumeus inhabits sclerophyll forest and has a longer distinctively marked tail.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

P. shortridgei is endemic to Australia.

7. Additional Remarks

The species is not subject to trade.

8. References

Cockburn, A., 1978. The Distribution of Pseudomys shortridgei (Muridae: Rodentia) and its relevance to that of other Heathland Pseudomys. Aust. Wild. Res. 5: 213-19.

Strahan, R., 1983. The Australian Museum Complete Book of Australian Mammals. Angus & Robertson, Sydney.