

MOUSE UPDATE – September 2001

Trap success on the **Central Darling Downs** transect in September was 1.3%. Numbers are average for this time of the year (see graph below). Of the 9 mice caught, 8 were sub-adult. The one adult mouse caught was a male, not in breeding condition. No adult females were caught so it is not possible to say whether breeding has begun. The weather remains very dry.

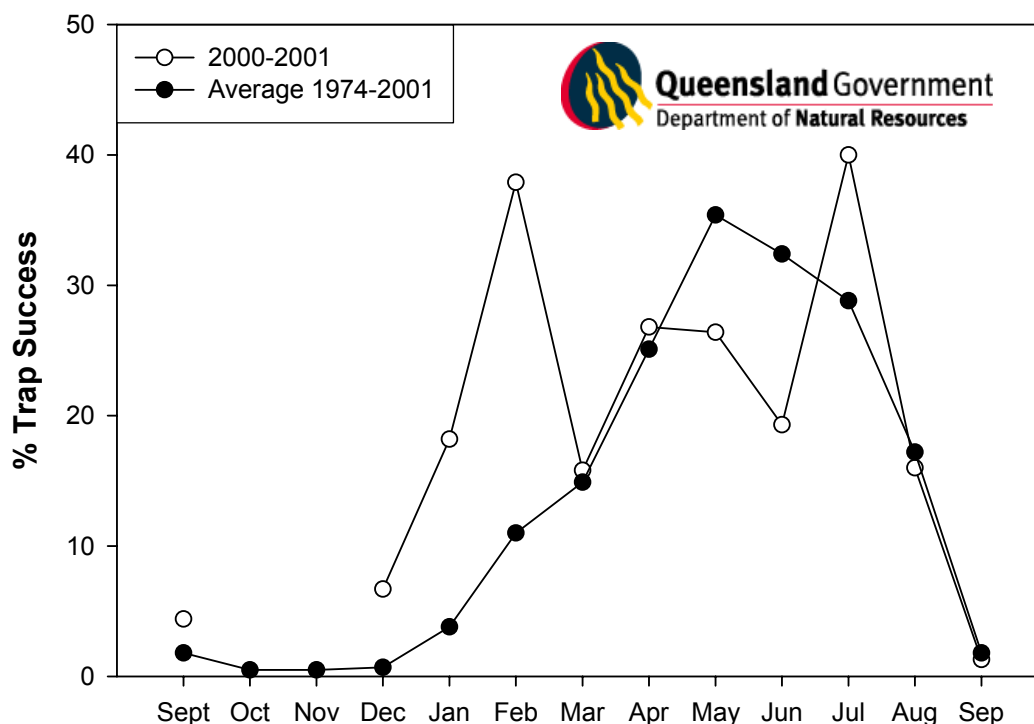


Figure caption: Percent trap success (number of mice caught per 100 traps) on the Central Darling Downs transect between December 2000 and September 2001 (open circles) and the average monthly value for the transect (closed circles).

According to the Darling Downs Mouse Plague Prediction Model, the expected population density next May is moderate. The probabilities associated with each density range are:

High density	0.14
Medium density	0.64
Low density	0.21
Very low density	0.01

Adverse rainfall conditions during spring and summer move these probabilities towards the lower densities. If the drought continues, food will be limiting for mice over the next few months and breeding success will be curtailed. If good rains fall over the next month or two, then breeding success will be enhanced by the availability of good quality feed.

Judy Caughley
Robert Wicks Pest Animal Research Centre
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