



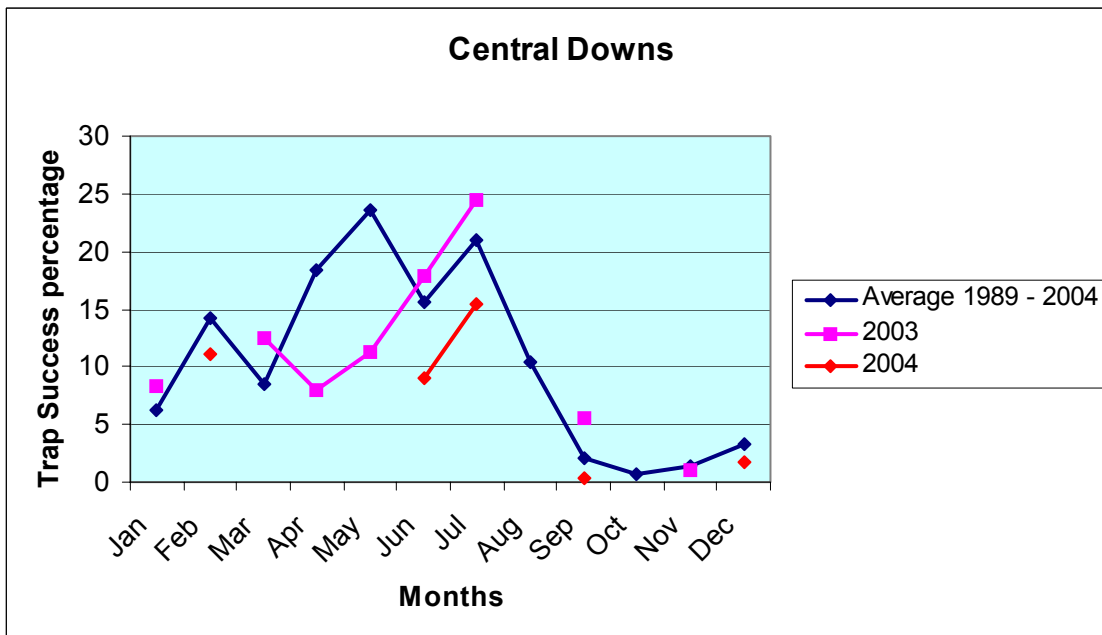
MOUSE UPDATE

December 2004

Central Downs

The Central Downs transect was trapped by Craig Hunter and myself on 20 – 21 December. Conditions overnight were calm, cool and overcast.

A total of 438 traps went out on 22 sites, composed of 9 x verge, 7 x sorghum, 3 x cotton, 2 x fallow and 1 x barley stubble. Seven mice were caught, giving a trap success rate of 1.67% for the month. Of the seven caught, there were 5 x adult males, 1 x pregnant female and 1 x lactating female.



The distribution through sites were x 2 males in verges, x 2 males and x 1 female in sorghum, x 1 male and x 1 female in fallow paddocks.

The trap success rate from the Central Downs transect is similar to trapping results obtained from 8 farm sites around the central and northern Downs through November and December.

As seen on the graph, the trap success rates have followed the long-term average for much of 2004.

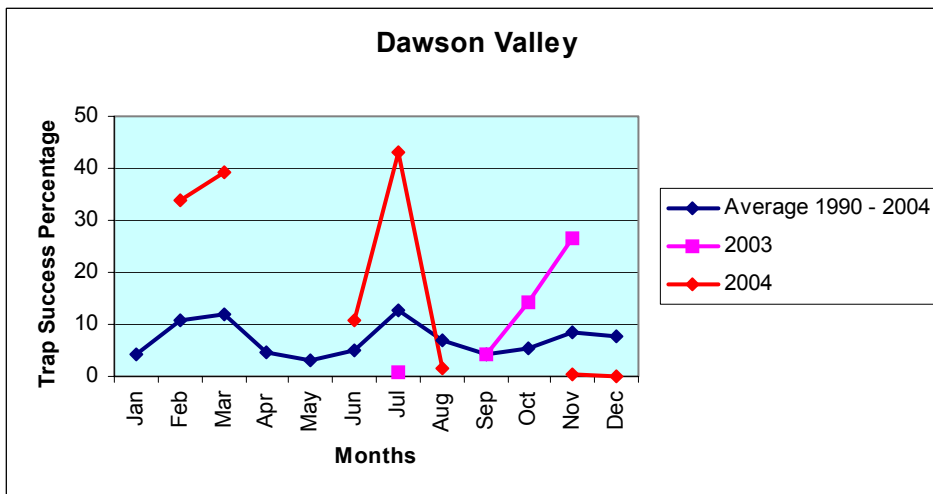
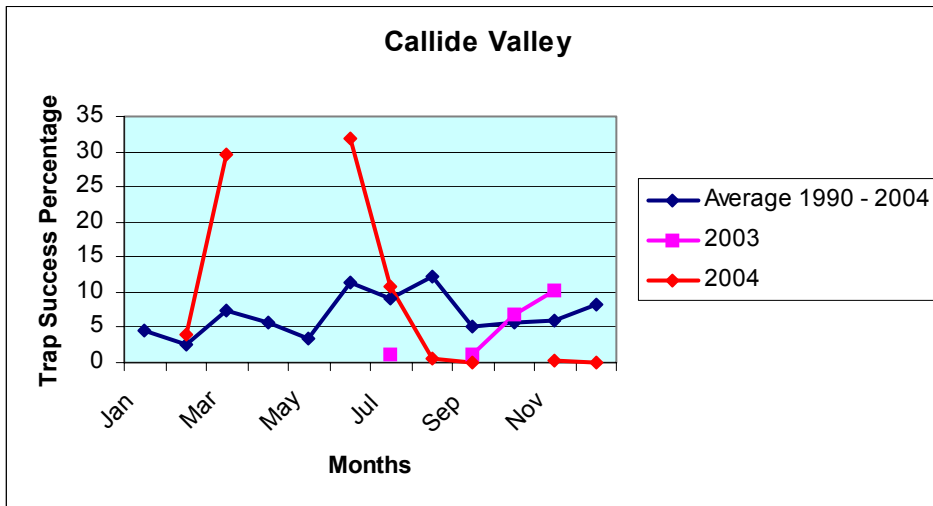
The plague prediction model indicates that the December population density index of 1.67 will result in very low populations in March 2005 and low populations in May 2005.



MOUSE UPDATE

Callide Valley and Dawson Valley

Trap success rates on both the Callide and Dawson transects have remained close to zero since the population crash in June / July.



Springsure

Five rats (four females, one male), probably *Rattus sordidus* were recently trapped on 'Bambar Plains'. Autopsies to determine breeding condition and stomach contents will be done after confirmation of identity. Live capture trapping will begin in January 2005.

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