

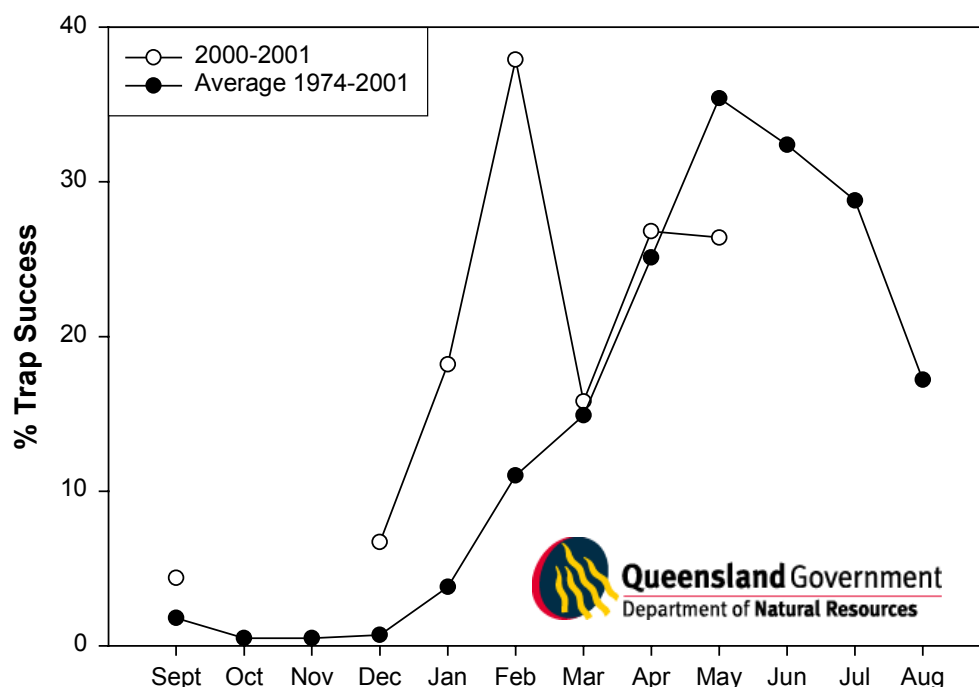
MOUSE UPDATE – May 2001

Trap success on the **Central Darling Downs** transect in May was 26% — down slightly from last month’s figure of 27%.

More than half of the adult females caught were pregnant or lactating (14% pregnant, 40% lactating). The young from this breeding will augment mouse numbers in June/July.

Most summer crops have been harvested and farmers are preparing for winter crops. Mouse numbers may be high enough in late June to cause some damage to these crops. Provided the damage is not too severe (not more than 20%), wheat and barley plants will compensate and yield will not be affected. Some chick pea seeds and germinating seedlings may be eaten but farmers I have spoken to are aware of the potential problem and are rolling after sowing (or planning to do so).

Judy Caughley
Robert Wicks Pest Animal Research Centre
15 May 2001



Percent trap success (number of mice caught per 100 traps) on the Central Darling Downs transect between September 2000 and May 2001 (solid line) and the average monthly value obtained from the available data for the transect between February 1974 and August 2000