



MOUSE UPDATE

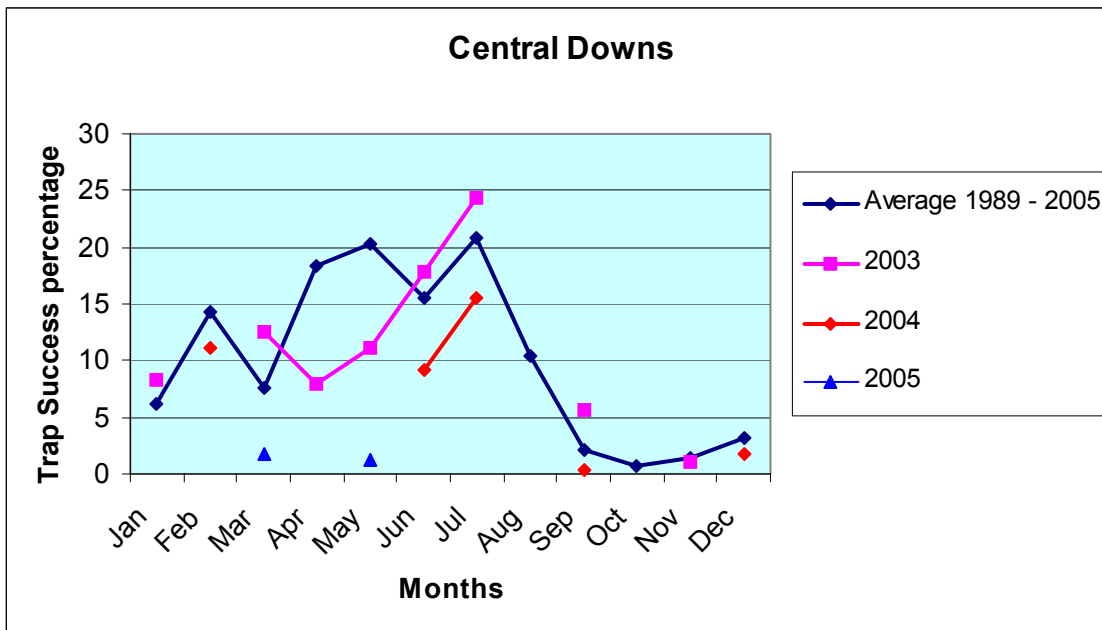
June 2005

Central Downs

The Central Downs transect was trapped on 23rd May. Three hundred and sixty traps went out and 4 mice were caught, giving an adjusted trap success rate of 1.15%, which is down slightly from the last trapping in March (1.79% adjusted). Two of the 4 caught were adult males in corn stubble, one pregnant female in old barley stubble and one lactating female in cotton mulch.

Lack of moisture towards the end of the summer cropping season resulted in large areas of lodged sorghum, a lot of which has been left in paddocks, unharvested because growers couldn't access the pick-up fingers needed for their harvesting machinery.

The lodged grain will be an excellent food source for mice during winter or until rain causes regrowth.



Northern Downs

The Northern Downs transect was trapped on 3rd June. Two hundred and twenty traps went out and 24 mice were caught giving an adjusted trap success rate of 12.1%. A breakdown of the trap catch included 12 juveniles, 4 adult males, 7 non-breeding females and 1 lactating female. Lumpy tail lesions (*Streptobacillus moniliformis* – polyarthritis) were noted in one adult male and one adult female, both caught along the same trapline set in sorghum stubble.

Fifteen of the 24 mice caught were in sorghum stubble, enjoying the feed provided by lodged sorghum. Four were in sorghum mulch, three were in dense, ungrazed grass, and two were in unmown road verges.



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One adult male stripe-faced dunnart, *Sminthopsis macroura* was caught in the ungrazed paddock. These natives are more common in central Queensland than on the Downs.

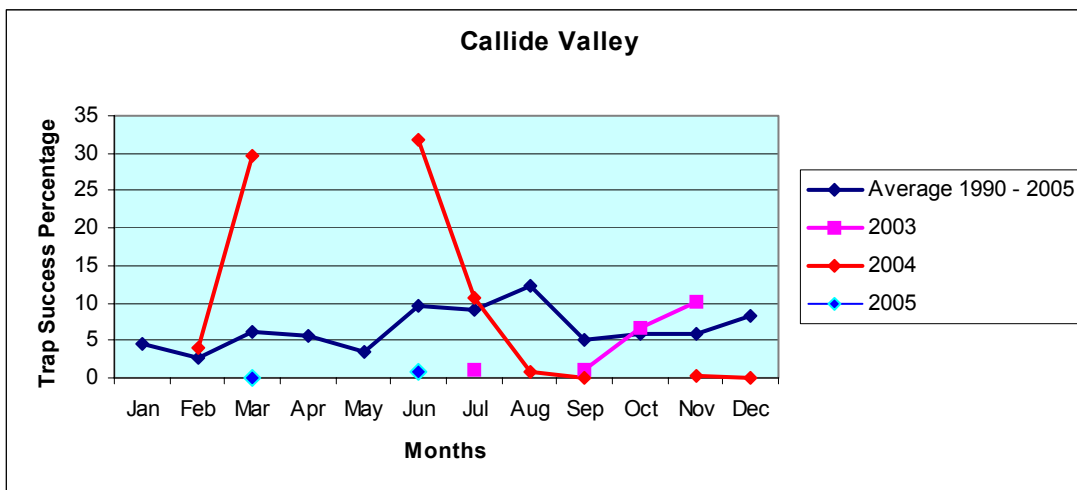
Eastern Downs

The Eastern Downs transect was trapped on 2nd June. Two hundred and twenty traps went out and 2 mice were caught, giving an adjusted trap success rate of 0.95%. Both were juveniles trapped in sorghum stubble and an unmown road verge. There appears to be limited food resources available along this transect.

Callide Valley – central Queensland

The Callide Valley transect was trapped on 8th June. Two hundred and eighty traps went out and 2 mice were caught, resulting in an adjusted trap success rate of 0.74%. No mice were caught during the previous trapping in March.

The two trapped in June were in sorghum stubble and consisted of one non-breeding adult female and one lactating female. The trap success rates for the Callide transect have remained consistently below average since August 2004 in spite of a very high grass biomass along roadside verges, which would be an excellent food source at present. The most common grasses appear to be kangaroo grass, wallaby grass, rhodes grass and green panic.

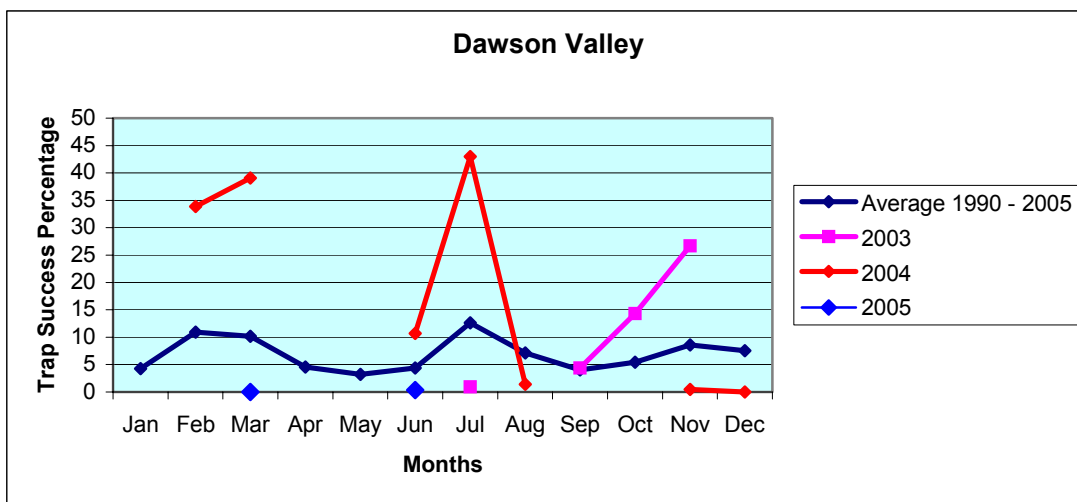




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Dawson Valley – central Queensland

The Dawson Valley transect was trapped on 7th June. Three hundred traps went out and one unlucky pregnant female mouse was caught, resulting in an adjusted trap success rate of 0.36%. She was caught in sorghum stubble. Most of the sites trapped were unmown road verges, sorghum stubble or fallow. The dense grass growth on Callide Valley roadside verges was not seen in the Dawson Valley, although there is enough to sustain a lot more mice than the few that are around.



Springsure

No rats have been caught since December 2004. The next round of trapping on 'Bambar Plains' and 'Barton Downs' is planned for the week beginning 27 June.

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