



MOUSE UPDATE

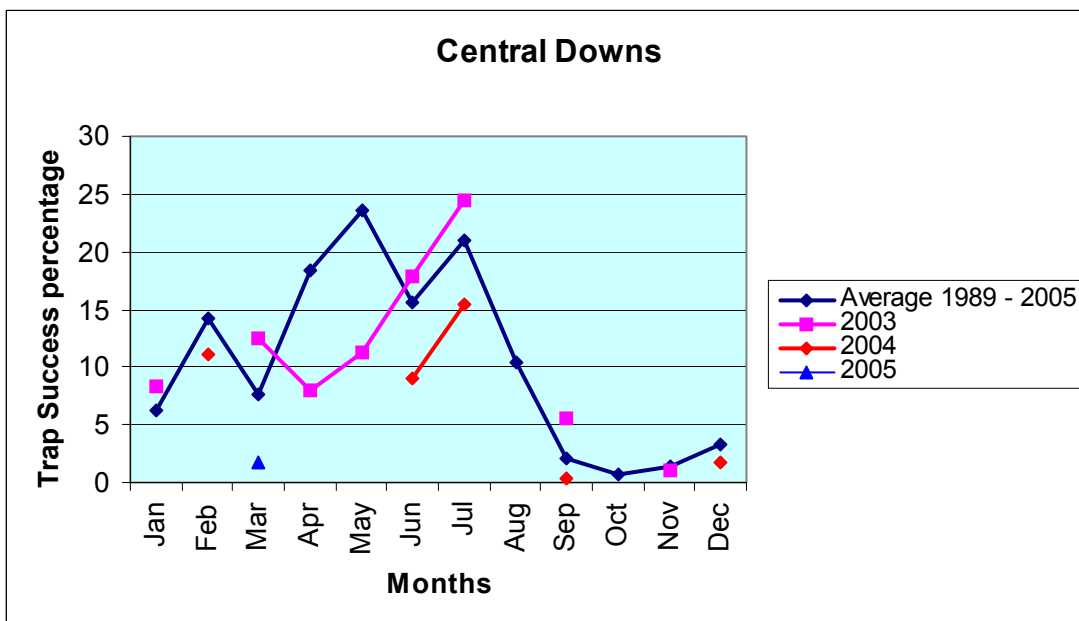
March 2005

Central Downs

The Central Downs transect was trapped by Craig Hunter and myself on 10 - 11 March 2005. Conditions overnight were cool and overcast with a bit of light rain, although heavy downpours set off many of the traps at a couple of sites.

A total of 459 traps were set over 24 sites, composed of 8 x mown verges, 3 x unmown verge, 4 x mature cotton, 2 x mature sorghum, 2 x fallow, 2 x barley mulch, 1 x sorghum mulch and 1 x mature chick peas, 1 x mature corn.

Six mice were caught – two adult males and four breeding females, giving an adjusted trap success rate of 1.8%. This is much lower than the long term average for March and as predicted in December 2004 by the mouse population model used by the Department. Distribution through the sites were males in mature cotton and females in mature sorghum, mature chick peas and mown verges.



Callide Valley and Dawson Valley, central Queensland

The Callide and Dawson Valley transects was trapped between 22 – 24 March 2005.

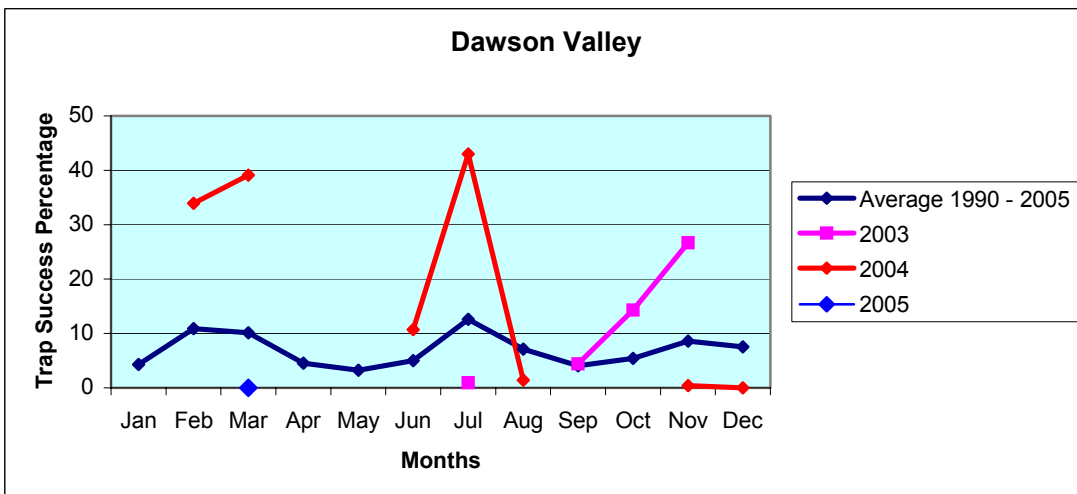
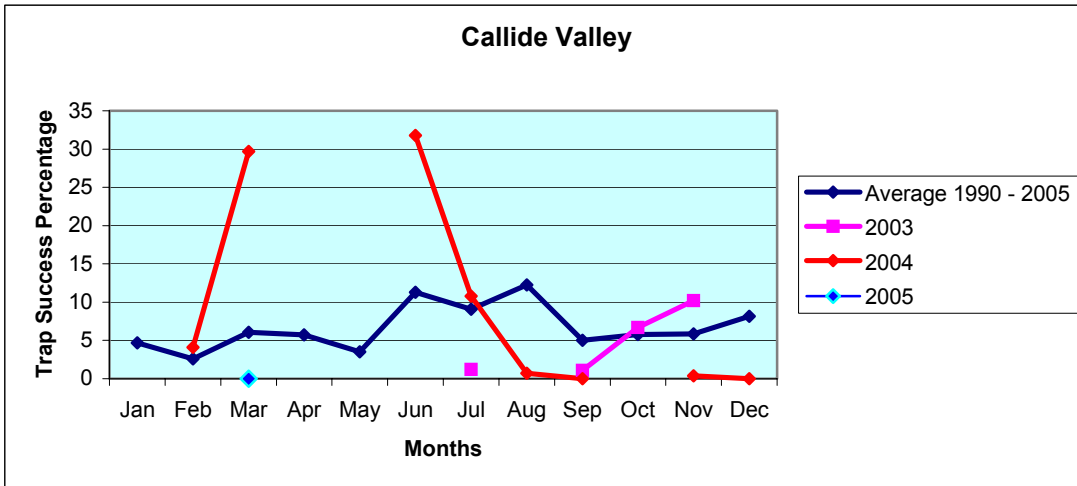
Overnight conditions were cool and clear.

A total of 560 traps went out over both transects, resulting in a 0% adjusted trap success rate on each transect. Off target catches included three male stripe faced dunnarts (*Sminthopsis macroura*) which will be donated to the Queensland Museum collection.



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Mice populations in central Queensland have been very low since August 2004 and should remain low through winter if past trends are followed.



Springsure

No rats have been trapped since five *Rattus* aff. *sordidus* were caught in December 2004. More live capture trapping is planned for May.

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