



# Lasiorhinus krefftii

## Northern Hairy-Nosed Wombat

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### BACK FROM THE BRINK

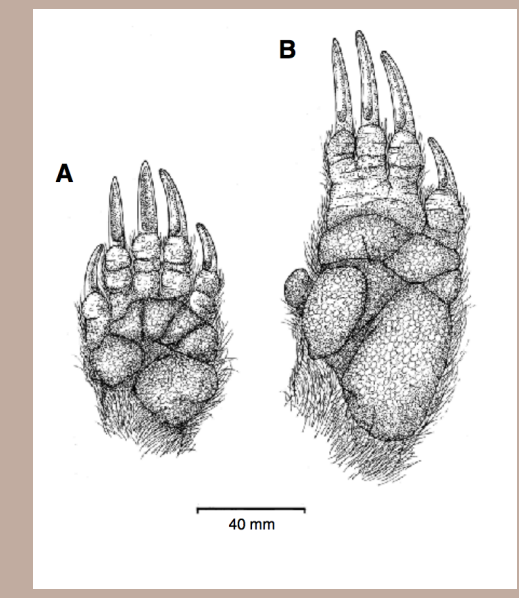
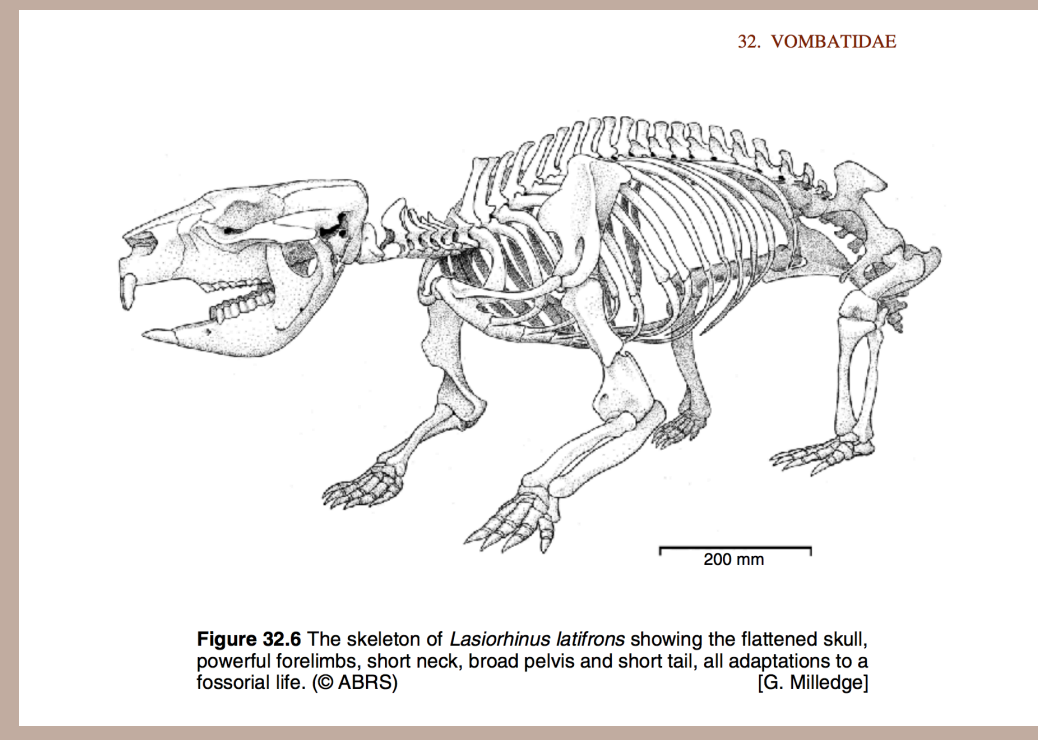
In the 1980's, the NHN wombat population fell to only 35 individuals in Epping Forest National Park. Today there are over 300 wombats living in two protected areas in Eastern Australia. *Lasiorhinus krefftii* are still **critically endangered**.

### ADAPTATIONS

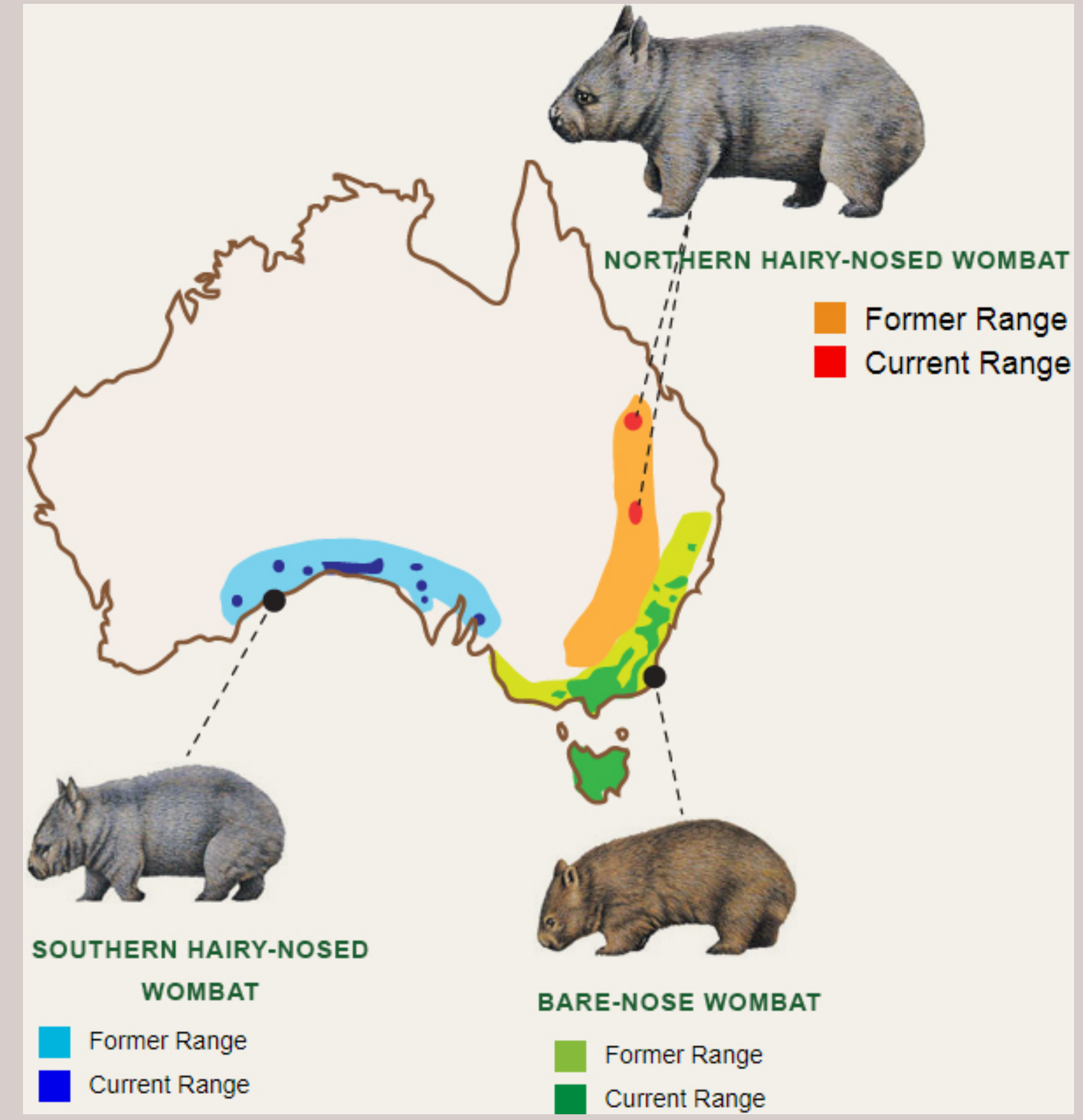
NHN wombats are well adapted for their semi-fossorial lifestyle, and year-round grazing behavior

- Plantigrade foot posture
- Short, stocky body
- Sturdy claws for digging

- Marsupial pouch opens posteriorly, so mom can burrow without filling her pouch with dirt!
- Very low metabolic rate
- Highly efficient, hind-gut fermentation



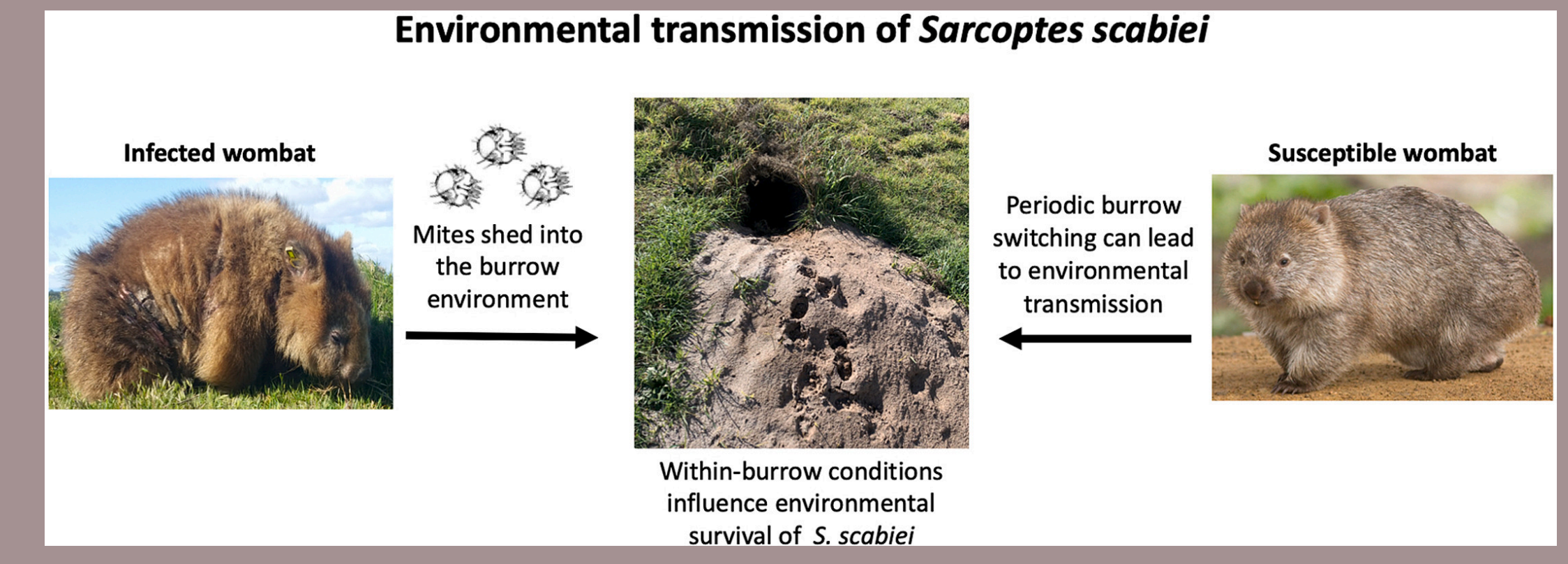
- Open-rooted teeth
- Gestation period 20-22 days, one joey per litter—newborn joeys are the size of a jellybean, weighing only 2 grams!



Northern Hairy-Nosed wombats inhabit a limited range including Epping Forest National Park, and Richard Underwood Nature Refuge. Assisted migration was necessary to reestablish the RUNR population after a close brush with extinction.

### CONSERVATION OBSTACLES

- Sarcoptic mange, a skin disease caused by *Sarcoptes scabiei*, is present in most wombat populations, and spreads easily in burrows
- Baby NHN wombats are born at the height of grassland production, making them sensitive to shifting seasons and climate change
- Inbreeding depression may also be an obstacle for future generations of NHN wombat



### DIET

NHN wombats require a year-round supply of native grasses, such as black spear grass, bottle washer grass, gold beard grass, and three-awned grass. Competition from non-native grazing animals such as sheep and cows threaten wombat food supplies.



### HABITAT

- Limited habitat in Eastern Australia
- Semi-arid grasslands
- Wombats spend most of their lives underground in complex, shared burrow systems called warrens
- Require deep, sandy soils for burrow excavation

