

On the vernacular name of *Petrogale burbidgei*

Andrew A. Burbidge and Phillip J. Fuller*

Kitchener and Sanson (1978), when describing *Petrogale burbidgei* (Marsupialia: Macropodidae), suggested the vernacular name warabi for it, based on a personal communication from I. Crawford that warabi is the name used by Wunumbal-speaking people. Subsequently, warabi was adopted by the Australian Mammal Society in 1980 and is used in Strahan (1983).

During 1987 and 1988 we worked with Wunambal (=Wunumbal), Worora and Ungarinyin Aborigines in the north west Kimberley during the Department of Conservation and Land Management's rainforest surveys and during negotiations with local Aborigines about the future management of the Prince Regent Nature Reserve. We obtained Wunambal names for a variety of mammals as well as other vertebrates and plants. When discussing *Petrogale burbidgei* we were consistently told that warabi was not the name of an animal. Warabi is, however, the name of a major mythological site on the coast of Montague Sound (Crawford 1968).

Aborigines in the north Kimberley use the same names for both *P. burbidgei* and *P. concinna*, although they clearly recognize that there are two different species where they occur together. The Wunambal names we were given are monjon and maluwal; these are synonyms. The other names we noted were manjanj (Worora) and wunjana (Ungarinyin) (orthography of McGregor, 1988). We are confident that these are most, if not all, the Aboriginal names for this geographically restricted species.

Under the circumstances the use of warabi for *P. burbidgei* is incorrect. We propose that monjon be adopted instead. *Petrogale concinna* has a well accepted vernacular name (Nabarlek) derived from Arnhem Land Aborigines and the use of monjon should not lead to any ambiguity.

We thank Tjapu (Geoffrey) Mangglamarra of Kalumburu for his help with the Wunambal language.

References

- Crawford, I.M. (1968). *The art of the Wandjina*. Oxford University Press, Melbourne.
Kitchener, D.J. and Sanson, G. (1978). *Petrogale burbidgei* (Marsupialia, Macropodidae), a new rock wallaby from Kimberley, Western Australia. *Rec. West. Mus.* 6: 269-285.
McGregor, W. (1988). A survey of the languages of the Kimberley region - report from the Kimberley Language Resource Centre. Australian Aboriginal Studies 1988, No. 2. Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, Canberra.

*Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australian Wildlife Research Centre, P.O. Box 51, Wanneroo, Western Australia 6065.

On the vernacular name of *Petrogale burbidgei*

Strahan, R. (ed) (1983). *The Australian Museum Complete Book of Australian Mammals*. Angus & Robertson Publishers, Sydney.