

# Mammals

Very few mammals  
live in the mangrove

## True Water Rat

*Hydromys chrysogaster*

The True Water Rat has a long, streamlined, flattened head and grows to 60cm long. The nostrils are located on the tip of the snout and its eyes are placed high on its head so that it can see and breathe while swimming.

It has partially webbed hind feet.

The True Water Rat is a nocturnal animal and rests during the daytime in burrows under tree roots. It sometimes builds its nest of twigs and mud near mangrove banks.

It eats mussels, snails, yabbies and fish.



## Black Flying Fox

*Pteropus Alecto*

Flying foxes or fruit bats are often found during the daytime as they hang upside down in mangrove or paper swamps.

Their wings are wrapped around themselves like cloaks. There may be many thousands in a single camp.

At dusk the flying fox leaves its camp and can fly as far as fifty kilometres in search of food that they locate using their strong sense of smell. They eat nectar pollen and native fruit.

The flying fox has very big eyes and a long nose that looks a bit like a fox or dog. Adults have a wing span of up to 1.6 metres, weigh more than one kilogram and can fly up to speeds of 35kph.



They mate from March to April giving birth to a single young in October. The newborn are carried by their mother for the first month, feeding on milk from the mother's nipples which are located near her armpits.

The Black Flying Fox begins to fly at 3 months and leave their mother at 6 months.