

Striped possum

Striped possum

Dactylopsila trivirgata

Distribution

Striped possums are found only in far northern areas, especially from Tully north.

Damage

Striped possums can cause damage in cane beside rainforest or heavily timbered creek banks. Damage occurs where a low tree limb hangs over the cane. If this is removed there is little change of further damage. The rind of the cane stalk is lifted off for about 10 cm, but left attached at the lower end of the 'bite'. Cane tissue is dug out by the long teeth.

Description

Striped possums live in trees and are white coloured with thick black-grey stripes running down the body. They are 57-61 cm long when fully grown.

Biology

Striped possums sleep by day in a leaf-lined nest in a tree hole and at night feed mainly on wood-borers and other insects. Very little is known about its reproduction. Females have two teats and can rear one or two young a year.

Management

No control is required other than by removing overhanging branches. The animal is a protected species.