



The World's **Deadliest** Marsupial

Dangerous

Drop Bear

Thylarctos plummetus



Drop Bears have been rarely photographed in the wild, its no wonder these marsupials are apart of so many legends and myths. This artist's rendition is the best representation seen so far.



Australia is known for its many dangerous and unique animals: Bull Sharks, Sydney Funnel Web Spiders, Tiger Snakes. The list is endless! Yet none of these animals compared to the rare and elusive *Drop Bear*. These tiny creatures are cousins to the Koala, but the Drop Bear craves flesh, unlike everyone's favorite herbivorous marsupial!

History

Drop Bears are thought to be an offshoot species of the modern *Phascolarctos cinereus*, more commonly known as the Koala. Their physical characteristics suggest that they have not evolved too far from their cousins, as their diet and behavior are the only two known differences between the species. Scientists and researchers suggest that Drop Bears may have come about from the destruction of the Koala's primary habitats, replacing their favored eucalyptus trees with relatively barren human neighborhoods consisting of houses and streets. Drop Bears have become more numerous in recent times due to the availability of prey, specifically the unfortunate children of tourists.

Habitat

Drop Bears are considered a common nuisance in eastern Australia; their habitats overlap many popular tourist destinations such as Sidney, Brisbane, and Melbourne. While Koalas primarily exist on preserves located just out of sight of the major cities, Drop Bears have found their home in the trees towering over neighborhood blocks.

They nestle on top leafy branches that extend out over pedestrian sidewalks, keeping an eye out on potential prey that may enter their attack range. However, the furry creatures are known to have large home ranges, with a single bear claiming territory over an entire city block of trees, making them a rare sight among humans.

SAFETY TIP

Did you know that Drop Bears are inherently afraid of the Australian accent? Stick close to your travel guides and keep children under a watchful eye. With any luck, you may never see one during your visit!

Diet

Drop Bears prefer prey similar in size to themselves; their primary diet consists of small cats, dogs, and the occasional unfortunate child. Like most predators, they sustain off protein found in the flesh and bones of their prey, replacing the herbivorous diet their predecessors once had. But unlike most ground-based predators, a Drop bear has a consumption cycle more akin to snakes, only needing to hunt and eat prey once a month. They try to hibernate the rest of the time as much as possible, conserving energy until it's time to feast again.

Hunting Tactics

Self-described in their name, Drop Bears hunt by dropping down onto their prey from above, utilizing height and the concealment of leaves to surprise their victims with a vicious attack of claws and teeth carried over from their Koala lineage. As these bears are nocturnal, they primarily hunt at night, allowing them to drag their prey out of sight before a wandering eye may notice. Australian locals warn tourists to keep their children in check because you never know when the Drop Bear may choose to make you its next snack!

