

# Ecological consistency across space: A synthesis of the ecological aspects of *Dromiciops gliroides* in Argentina and Chile

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*Dromiciops gliroides* is an arboreal marsupial found in the temperate forests of South America (36-43 °S). This species is the sole extant representative of the order Microbiotheria, and is a key seed disperser of many native plant species, including the keystone mistletoe *Tristerix corymbosus*. Here, we synthesized the current knowledge on the ecological aspects of this species, and compared the available information from Argentina and Chile. Population density ( $23 \pm 2$  (mean  $\pm$  SE) individual/ha) and home range ( $1.6 \pm 0.6$  ha) appear to be relatively similar across a marked ecological gradient in the mainland, but lower densities ( $7 \pm 2$  individual/ha) and smaller home ranges ( $0.26 \pm 0.04$  ha) were detected at island sites. We detected regional variation in body condition in Chile, but there were no significant differences across a wider E-W gradient. Movement patterns fit a random walk model; such behavior might have important consequences in shaping plant's spatial patterns. Although our data sug