

# Australian Region

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# Australian Region Map



# Australian Region

## **GEOGRAPHICAL LIMITS :**

- ❖ It includes Australia, New Zealand, New Guinea, Tasmania, Moluccas and neighbouring islands in the Pacific Ocean. A.R. Wallace includes Celebes Islands in the Australian Region (Islands east of Wallace's Line), but now a days it was kept in the Oriental Region.

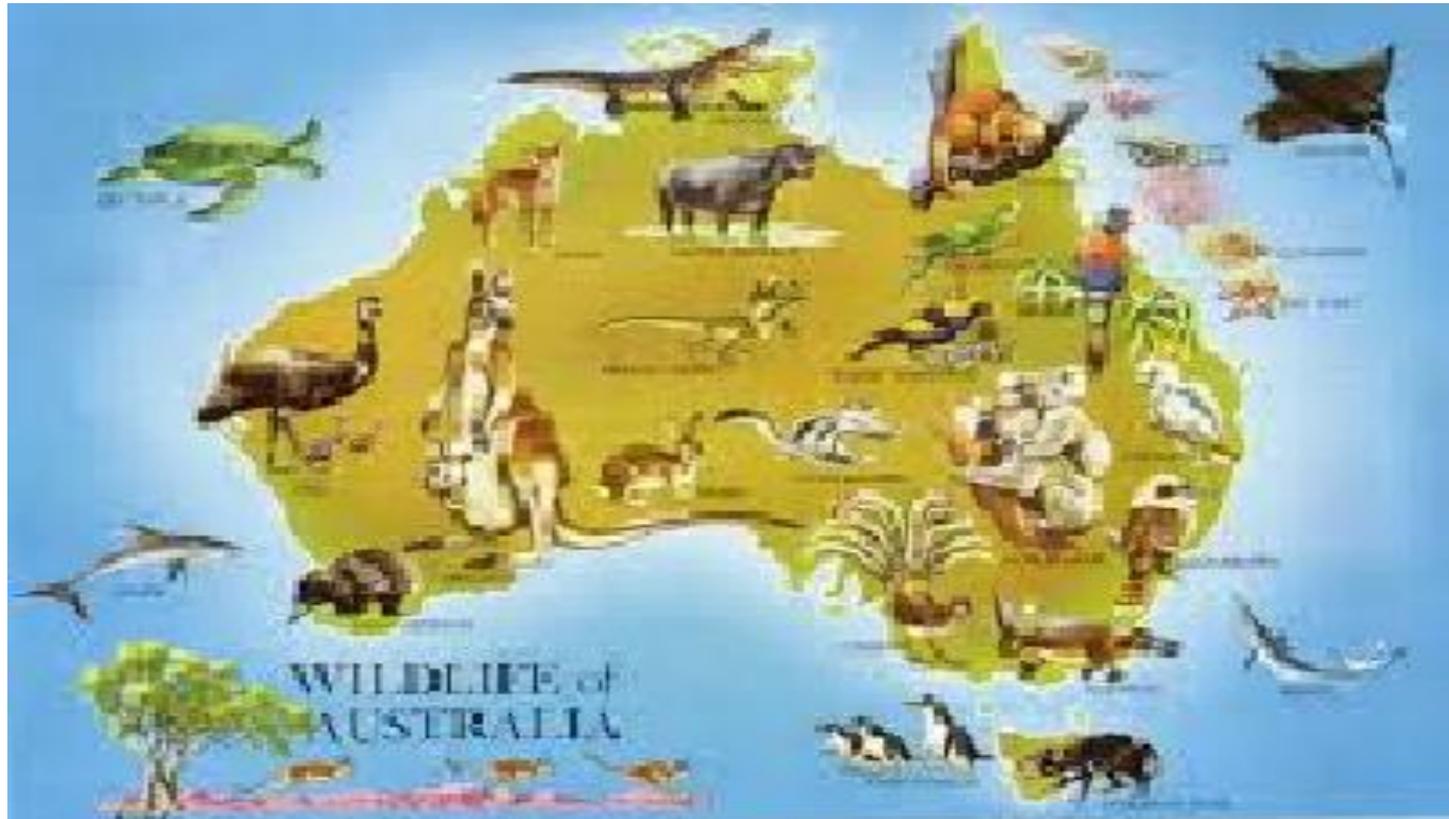
## **CLIMATIC CONDITIONS:**

- ❖ Australian region is partly tropical and partly temperate, is mostly covered with rain forests, the Northern part of Australia is tropical but most of the interior is arid, Western Australia is desert and there are grasslands in the middle, Eastern Australia is covered with lush green forests.
- ❖ In this region, Tasmania is cool and temperate and New Guinea is tropical with rain forests.

# Fauna of Australian Region

- The vertebrates fauna of Australian region is very thin as well as the number of families but it has several unique genera, the most peculiar features is the absence of highly evolved mammals and it contain many primitive forms. Marsupials and monotremes are found only in the region.
- Many zoogeographers thought that Australia and America might have connected by a landmass. The land mass is called *Gondawana landmass*, because of this landmass, the fauna of Australia and America are similar. But after sometime this Gondawana landmass was submerged and Australia was separated. Hence, Australian fauna become isolated.
- In this region, Eutherian mammals were not invaded because of the absence of carnivores mammals. So Marsupials have increased in their number.

# Fauna in Australia Region



# Fauna in Australian Region

## ***FISHES:***

- In this region, fresh water fishes are rare and belongs to family of Osteoglossids and Neoceratodus (Lung fish) and is also called Australian Lung Fish but both have restricted distribution to Burnett and Mary rivers in Queensland.
- There are many other fresh water and marine fishes are present such as Catla, Anabas, Saccobranchnus, Cynoglossus, Shark.

## **AMPHIBIANS:**

- Amphibians are few.
- The common toads and tailed amphibians are absent.
- The Australian representatives are frogs ( Hyla and Rana).

# Fauna in Australian Region

## REPTILES:

- In this region, reptiles are moderately varied and only two families are exclusive. Crocodiles, Turtles, Geckos, Skinks, Chamaeleon, Varanus (Monitor Lizard), Pythons and Tiger snakes are abundant.
- Sphenodon (Living Fossil Reptile) punctatus is found exclusively in New Zealand.
- Some are colubrids which occur in New Guinea and parts of Australia.
- In New Zealand, Snakes are absent.

# Fauna in Australian Region

## ***BIRDS:***

- In this region, Birds fauna is abundant having 58 families, about 44 families are more or less widely distributed over the world.
- Two families are divided between Australia and oriental region but 12 are exclusive forms.
- In this region, flightless birds are common such as Apteryx (Kiwi) and is present in New Zealand
- Trongon (*Harpactes*), King Fishers, Hawks, cuckoo, pigeons and parrots are very numerous.
- The pigeons and parrots have reached their maximum diversity.

# Fauna in Australian Region

- There are three exclusive families of Parrots and Cuckoos, Loris and Pigmy Parrots, Frogs mouth, wood swallows, Flower Peckers and Megapodes are shared with Oriental region, but Pheasants, Finches, Barbets and wood peckers are absent.
- Total 10 families of Birds are exclusive, these are  
1.Cassowaries present in Australia, 2.Emus (Dromaeus) in New Guinea, 3.Honey suckers, 4.Hyre birds, 5.Bower birds, 6.Legendary birds of paradise 7.Legaspodes 8.Owlet frog mouth 9.Flower peckers 10.Bell magpies, 11.scrub birds

# Fauna in Australian Region



*Neoceratodus*



*Flying Turtle*



*Pheasant*



*Parrot*



*Kiwi*



**Monotremes: The Egg-Laying Mammals**  
Only two kinds of egg-laying mammals are left on the planet today—the duck-billed platypus and the echidna, or spiny anteater. These add “monotremes” once dominated Australia, until their pouch-bearing cousins, the marsupials, invaded the land down under 71 million to 54 million years ago and swept them away. New research suggests these two kinds of creatures managed to survive because their ancestors took to the water.



*Monotremes*



*Oposum*



*Macropus*



*Koalas*

# Fauna in Australian Region

## **MAMMALS :**

- The mammalian fauna of Australian region is characterized by the complete absence of higher Eutherian mammals.
- There are a few monotremes (Prototherians) such as Echidna and Ornithorhynchus found in Australian region but several families of Marsupials are present in this Australian region.
- There are 52 genera of 6 families of marsupials (Metatherians) that are unique and are not found in the Neotropical Region.
- These are marsupial families animals such as Dasyurus (Tiger Cat) perameles (marsupial Bandicoots), Didelphys (opossum) Notoryctes (Marsupial mole) Wombats and phascolarctos (Koala Bear) Macropus (Kangaroo) .

# Fauna in Australian Region

- There are 6 families of insectivorous bats and few fruits bats, mice, Australian dog and European rabbits, Horse, Donkey and sus (Pig) have been introduced into this region.
- This region has absence of certain important groups of vertebrates such as Apes, Monkeys, carnivores. Mammals.



# Fauna in Australian Region

## Australian Animals



Fallow Deer



Tasmanian Devil



Koala



Dingo



Red Deer



Emu



European Rabbit



Green Sea Turtle



Mulgara



Platypus

Wandering Albatross



Short-Beaked Echidna



Saltwater Crocodile



Spinner Dolphin



Black Flying Fox



Kangaroo

# Four Sub Regions of Australian Region

This region includes four sub regions, They are:

## 1. *Australian Sub region* :

- ❖ It includes Australia and Tasmania. This sub region is located towards South west of Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ In this subregion very peculiar fauna is seen. It is because, this part is separated from its main land by a big stretch of Ocean. It shows tropical and temperate climate.
- ❖ There are Scrub birds, Lyre birds, Emus and Plenty of Cobras.
- ❖ There are 98 families of vertebrates and the region is home of monotremes and marsupials.
- ❖ Monotremes include short-nosed Echidna, *long-nosed Echidna and Duck-billed platypus*.
- ❖ In this sub region, 34 genera of marsupials are included, hence it is called **Home of Marsupials**.
- ❖ Marsupials include marsupial rat kangaroos, Tasmanian devil, koala, the horny Opossum, marsupial mole and rabbit eared bandicoot.
- ❖ Tasmanian wolf (*Thylacinus cynocephalus*) became extinct in 1936.

# Four Sub Regions of Australian Region

## ***2. Astro-Malayan Sub region :***

- \* This subregion includes Malayan Archipelago Islands, New Guinea, Solomon Island, etc.
- \* Fauna includes 130 families of vertebrates.
- \* There are crowned pigeons, Honey eaters, Cuckoos, Bover birds, Cassowaries.
- \* Fly river turtles are common and Dendrolagus, Dasyurus, etc., Marsupials are present.

# Four Sub Regions of Australian Region

### 3. *Polynesian Sub region* :

The Subregion includes Polynesian islands. In the sub region fauna is poor.

- Tooth build pigeons are common.

### 4. *New Zealand Sub region* :

In this sub regions New Zealand is included.

\*In this sub region, snakes are absent.

Sphenodon, a living fossils is confined to this region only .

\*In this sub region, kiwi flightless birds are present. Hence, they are called kiwis.

\*Kiwi is the National Bird of New Zealand.

\* Rats and bats are common.

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