

# Drop bear

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"Dropbear" redirects here. For the SSH program, see [Dropbear \(software\)](#). For other uses, see [Dropbear \(disambiguation\)](#).



Artistic depiction of a Drop bear

A **dropbear** or **drop bear** is a fictitious [Australian marsupial](#).<sup>[1][2][3][4][5][6][7][8][9][10][11][12]</sup>

Drop bears are commonly said to be unusually large, vicious, [carnivorous](#) marsupials related to [koalas](#) (although the koala is not a [bear](#)) that inhabit treetops and attack their prey by dropping onto their heads from above.<sup>[13]</sup><sup>[*broken citation*]</sup><sup>[14]</sup> They are an example of local lore intended to frighten and confuse outsiders and amuse locals, similar to the [jackalope](#), [hoop snake](#), [wild haggis](#) or [snipe](#).<sup>[*citation needed*]</sup> Stories of attacks by the fictional animal are commonly told to scare tourists.<sup>[15]</sup>

Various methods suggested to deter drop bear attacks include placing forks in the hair, having [Vegemite](#) or toothpaste spread behind the ears or in the armpits, [urinating](#) on oneself, and only speaking English in an Australian accent.<sup>[14][16]</sup><sup>[*full citation needed*]</sup>

## Australian Museum

The [Australian Museum](#) has a purportedly serious entry on drop bears in its catalogue of Australian fauna, classifying them as *Thylarctos plummetus*. The description says they are about the size of a very large dog, have coarse orange fur with dark mottling, have powerful forearms for climbing and attacking prey, and bite using broad powerful [premolars](#) rather than [canines](#). Specifically it states that they weigh 120 kilograms (260 lb) and have a length of 130 centimetres (51 in).<sup>[17]</sup> However, elsewhere, the museum acknowledges that this was not a serious entry<sup>[*not verified in body*]</sup>, and was inspired by the "[silly season](#)".<sup>[18]</sup> The Australian Museum also established a small display in the museum itself, exhibiting what it said may have been drop bear related artifacts.<sup>[18]</sup>

## In popular culture

*Australian Geographic* ran an article on its website on [April Fools' Day](#) 2013 claiming that researchers had found that drop bears were more likely to attack tourists than people with Australian accents.<sup>[19]</sup> The article was based on a 2012 paper published in *Australian Geographer*, and despite referencing the Australian Museum entry on drop bears in several places, images included with the *Australian Geographic* article were sourced from *Australian Geographer* and did not match the Australian Museum's species description.<sup>[17][14][19]</sup>