

It was a dreadful case of mistaken identity. European explorers confused them for ravenous cats, rats, wolves and weasels. But they were something completely unknown ... a curious band of marsupials with a taste for blood, bone and meat.

Scores of different little predators with pouches live all across Australia. The lives of many are at risk. Introducing three of the strangest; the numbat, the northern quoll, the dibbler; and the strangers who want to keep them safe.

Lena the numbat knows every sound and smell in her territory. This morning she hears footsteps through the undergrowth and a distant beeping sound. Ranger Brian is heading her way. Somehow, she is connected to this man. Could it be something to do with the ring-thing around her neck?

Ranger Brian holds his antenna high. Lena is being evasive. Her signal is constantly changing direction. But he must catch Lena today. The batteries in her tracking collar are about to lose their charge and without the radio link she may be impossible to find again. This is Brian's third attempt to catch Lena, if he is not successful today, five years of crucial data gathering will come to an end.

Lena is one of only a thousand numbats left in the wild. She is active during daylight hours; an extremely rare habit for a marsupial. Her diet is also unique. She eats termites, termites and more termites—up to 20,000 a day.

Lena is special among numbats. Since she started breeding four years ago, she has raised fifteen babies to adulthood; a record for the wild numbats of Western Australia. This season's young are already venturing far from the nest.

So far, so good.

But in the night, in the woodland, there is danger. Another carnivorous marsupial has sniffed out Lena's burrow and it finds numbats very tasty!

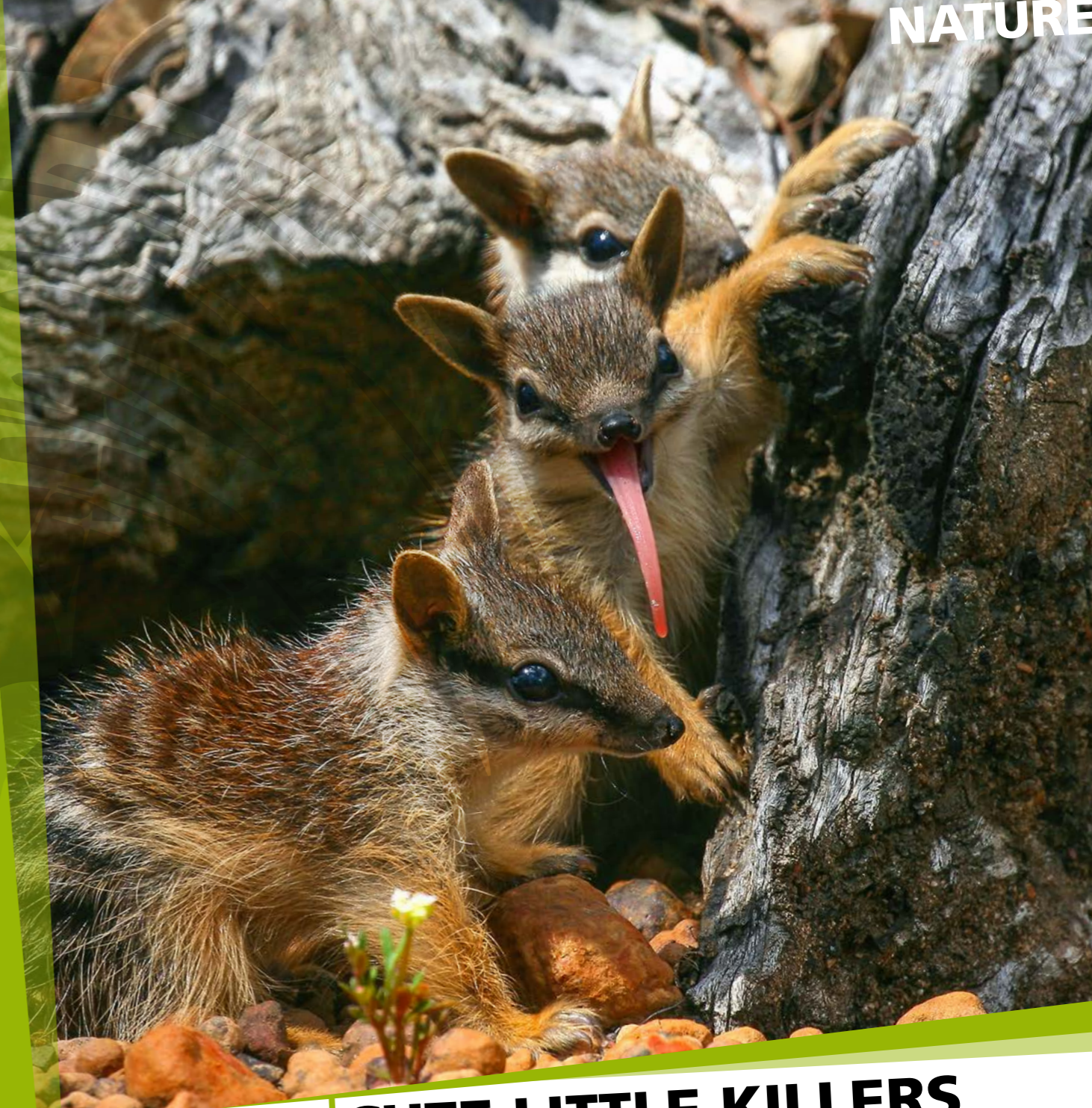
Across Australia other little carnivores come to life.

On a windswept-island floating in the azure Indian Ocean, a cute little mouse-sized dibbler pulls grasshoppers apart with needle-sharp teeth. The dibbler was thought to be extinct. This is the first time it has been filmed in the wild.

And in the tropical forests of far northern Australia the stealthy, cat-like Northern quoll looks down from a boulder onto its unsuspecting prey—a toad. But this particular toad is deadly!

The secret lives of the predators with pouches are about to be disturbed.

Meet maniacs, wind-up killers, and sweet-faced assassins in this entertaining introduction to some of the world's least known marsupials.



NATURE

# CUTE LITTLE KILLERS THE PREDATORS WITH POUCHES



1 x 50 min.

Written and directed by **Ruth Berry**

4K, 5.1 and Stereo

Executive producers: **Susanne Lummer, Sabine Holzer**



**TERRA MATER**  
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