

PEPINO Alexia
M1 Ecophysiologie et Ethologie

The Life of a Joey



- I. Introduction

- A. What are the marsupials?

- B. Where live the marsupials?

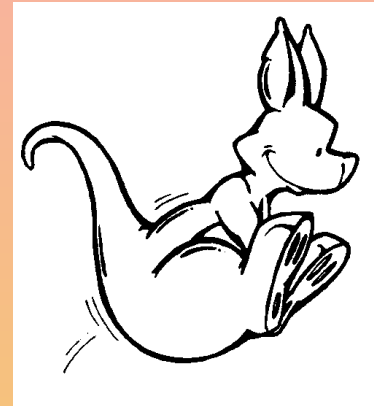
- C. The different marsupials

- II. Example of the kangaroo

- A. Generalities

- B. Different stages of the life

- III. Conclusion



I. Introduction

A. What are the marsupials?

- Class of mammal with a abdominal pouch : marsupium
- Considered to be primitive



B. Who live the marsupials?

In Islands of Oceania : Australia,
Tasmania, New-Zealand



C. The different marsupials : opening of the pouch

– Toward the top



Opossum :
until 13 babies in the pouch



Kangaroo-rat



Wallaby

– Toward the down



Koala :
Sleeps until 20 hours/days
2 opposable fingers

Tasmanian devil :
Carrion feeder
Anterior are longer than posterior



Tasmanian wolf :
Extinct specie



II. Example of the kangaroo

A. Generalities

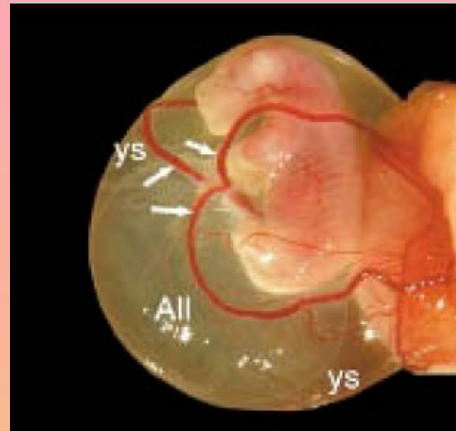
- Family : Macropodidae
- More than 60 species
- Strong posterior and tail



- Dentition and digestive system : to eat grass
- 2 m high and 85 kg
- Life expectancy : 4-6 years

B. Different stages of the life

- Gestation : 40 days in placenta



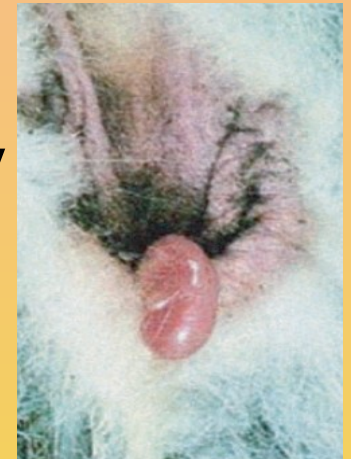
C. Freyer and all., 2002.
J.Anat 201, 101-119

- Birth : weigh of the baby : 1 gram

the position of the mother : to make
easier the way to the pouch
assault course for the baby



R.Baudinette and all., 2005.
FEBS 272, 433-443

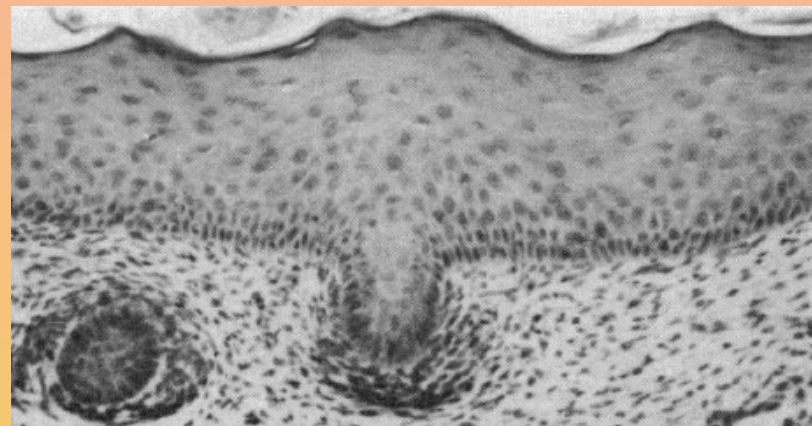
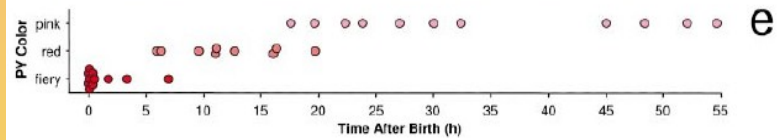
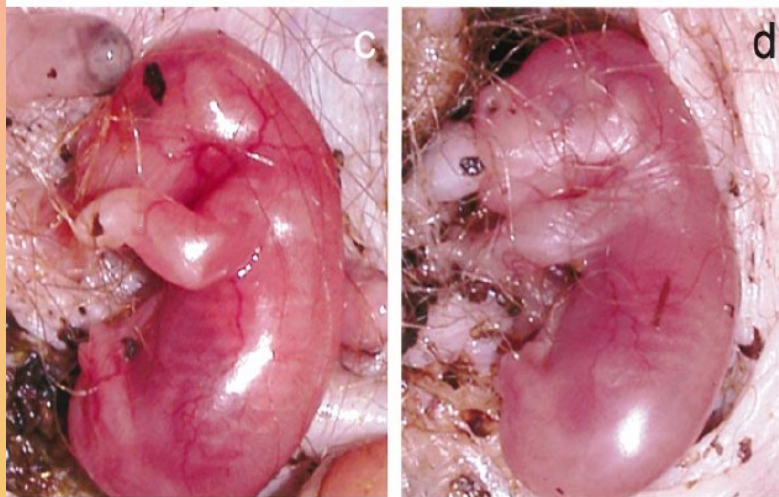
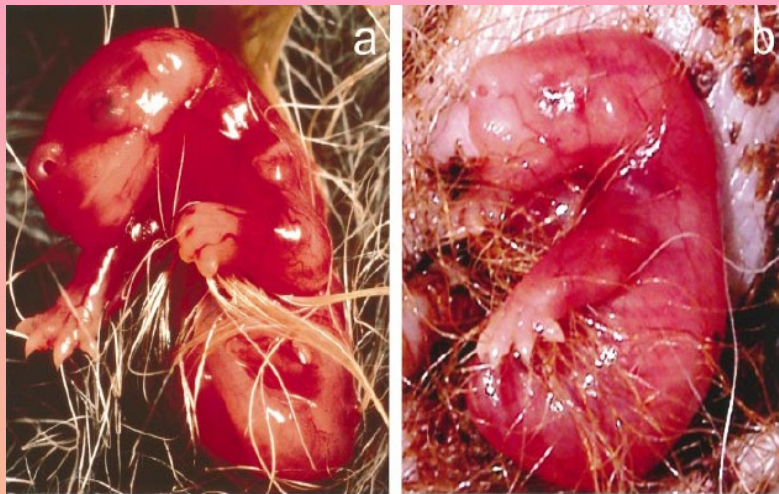




– In the pouch : fixed at a nipple during 2 months

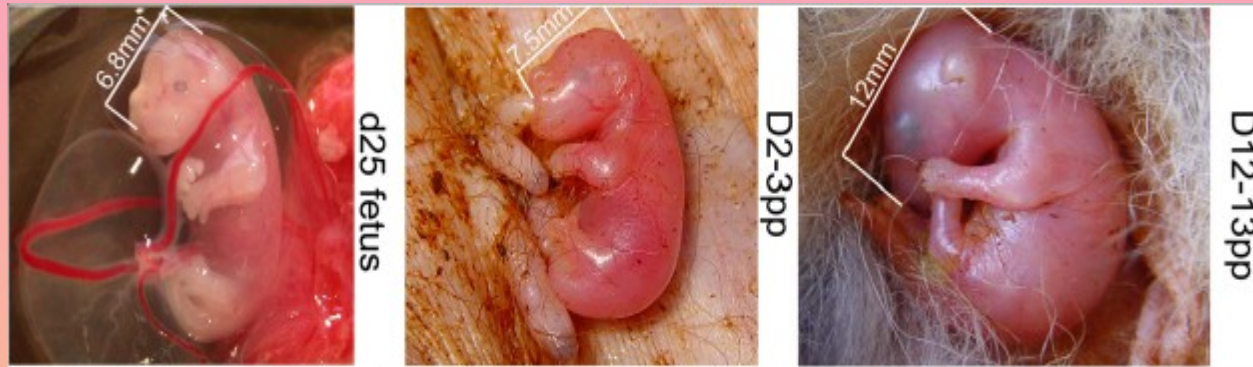
change of the color of the skin the first days

development of the skin, organs, immune system and coat



W.Krause and all.,1978. J.Anat 125, 85-99

increase of the size of the baby



H. Yu and all., 2006. BMC 6, 44-57

– Histology and morphology of the pouch fold of the abdominal skin closed by a sphincter muscle

↳ control of humidity and temperature

large number of glands and muscles
different nipples give different types of milk



– Childhood : 200 days : first exit out the pouch

Joey near its mother until the maturity age

Returns in the pouch to suck or to hide until 18 months



– Adult age : actives the night and sleep during the hot hours



live in groups

males often fight for a female after a specific ritual



During the mating season :
wedding parades



III. Conclusion

- Some marsupials are endangered species
 - ↳ predators : placental
men and vehicles



Thank you
for your
attention!!



References :

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