Adelie Penguin Pygoscelis adeliae (Hombron & Jacquinot 1841), Native
January 1841 Ross Sea
19/11/1950 Macquarie Island

At least twenty-eight colonies are known in the Ross Sea. Ross discovered a colony on Possesion Island in January 1841. Borchgrevink then discovered colonies on Franklin Island and in Wood Bay in 1899 (Harrington 1960). A.M. Gwynn (1953) captured an adult female of this essentially Antarctic species on Macquarie Island in November 1950. Another was seen in February 1964. Only two have been recorded from the mainland: one dead on the east coast of Marlborough in December 1962 and one alive at Kaikoura thirty-one years later, in January 1993.

Ritchie et al. (2004) found two highly divergent lineages of Adelie Penguin which overlap in the Ross Sea. These may be cryptic species.