

Banded hare-wallaby

Lagostrophus fasciatus



...*"the striped kangaroo, the smallest and most beautiful among the species"...*

is how naturalist François Péron described the banded hare-wallaby in 1801.

Description: The grey fur of this wallaby's back and rump is striped with dark bands while the underbelly is greyish-white.

Diet and Habitat: Banded hare-wallabies are browsers, mainly eating shrubs, and to a lesser extent grasses. They form runways under the vegetation, where they shelter during the day beneath thickets of Acacia and other dense shrubs.

Breeding: These hare-wallabies are territorial and male-male interactions can be aggressive. Relations among females and between juveniles and adults are peaceful.

Banded hare-wallabies usually first breed in their second year. Breeding usually peaks in autumn, but this species is capable of breeding year-round if conditions are favourable. Joeys spend about six months in the pouch.

As with many other macropods, the female can delay development of a fertilised egg, reactivating an embryo when a joey leaves her pouch (embryonic diapause).

Their lifespan is thought to be up to six years.

Distribution: Banded hare-wallabies once ranged across southern Australia. The only remaining natural populations are on Bernier and Dorre islands, although they have been successfully reintroduced to Faure Island and Mt Gibson Sanctuary. They have also been introduced to Dirk Hartog Island as part of the Dirk Hartog Island National Park *Return to 1616* Ecological Restoration Project.

Current distribution (approximate)



Quick facts

Head-body:	400 - 450mm
Tail:	230 - 360mm
Average weight:	1 - 2.3kg
Gestation:	30 days
Number of young:	1
Weaned:	9 months

Conservation Status

There were once two subspecies of the banded hare-wallaby but the mainland subspecies is now extinct, leaving the subspecies on Bernier and Dorre islands.



Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018.



DID YOU KNOW?

The banded hare-wallabies are the only surviving relative of an extinct and ancient group of kangaroos.