

Boodie (burrowing bettong)

Bettongia lesueur lesueur



Description: The boodie is a chunky little macropod with cinnamon tinged grey fur. Its tail is weakly prehensile and is used to carry nesting material. They store fat in their tails that can become large and 'sausage like'. Although the posture of boodies is hunched, they hop on their hind legs like other macropods.

They have a snub nose, small ears and Shark Bay boodies have a white tail tip that helps distinguish them from the brush-tailed bettong (woylie).

Diet and Habitat: This is the only macropod that regularly inhabits burrows, where they share nests with other boodies during the day.

They emerge after sunset to forage by moving slowly with their nose close to the ground, sniffing for fungi and bulbs. They also eat seeds, nuts and green plant parts.

Breeding: Female boodies can produce up to three young per year, with breeding occurring throughout the year. After a three-week pregnancy, a single joey is born and remains in the pouch for 115 days.

Boodies reach sexual maturity within their first year and can live for three years or longer.

Distribution: Boodies once covered one of the largest geographic ranges of almost any Australian mammal species but were extinct on the mainland by the early 1940s.

Natural wild populations of boodies can now only be found on a few Western Australian islands including Bernier, Dorre and Faure, Barrow, Boodie and Alpha. They will be reintroduced to Dirk Hartog Island as part of the *Return to 1616* Ecological Restoration Project.

Quick facts

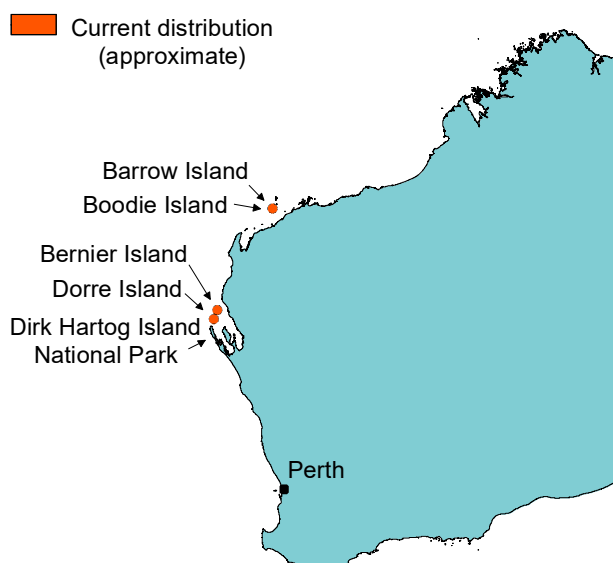
Head-body:	360mm
Tail:	285mm
Average weight:	1.3kg
Gestation:	3 weeks
Number of young:	1
Weaned:	5 - 6 months

Conservation Status

The small restricted populations of boodies leave them vulnerable, with their existence depending on continued conservation efforts. Threats include introduced predators and wildfires.



Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018.



DID YOU KNOW?

Boodies are the only macropod that regularly inhabits burrows.