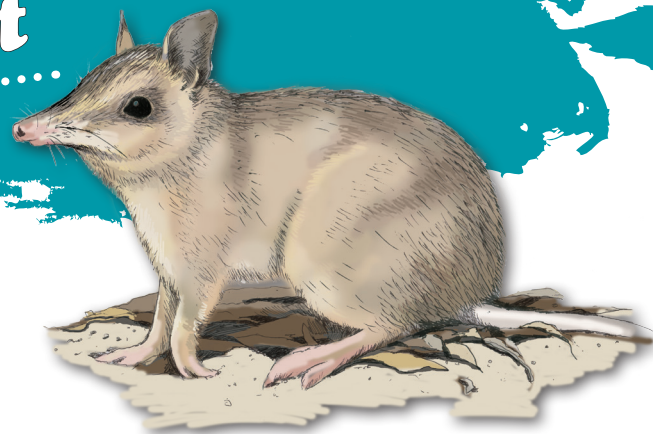


Shark Bay bandicoot

Perameles bougainville



Description: This smallest species of bandicoot is also known as the little marl and was previously known as the western barred bandicoot. It has large, erect pointed ears, a long-tapered snout and a short tail. Its fur is light brownish-grey with two or three dark bars across the hindquarters. The chin, underbelly and feet are pale. Females are larger than males. Its delicate appearance masks its hostile temperament - some bandicoots lose part of their tails during fights with other bandicoots.

Diet and Habitat: Shark Bay bandicoots are nocturnal and omnivorous. At night they hunt and dig for invertebrates, other small animals, seeds, roots and herbs. By day they shelter in grassy nests hidden in hollows, or leaf litter under shrubs.

They are quick and can jump straight into the air and change directions to snatch fast-moving prey.

Breeding: Breeding coincides with resources brought by rainfall - generally between autumn and spring. Females begin breeding at three to five months of age and carry one to three young in a backward-facing pouch which prevents soil from entering the pouch while digging.

Young bandicoots are independent after two weeks outside the pouch. They can live four years or more.

Distribution: Once common between Shark Bay and Onslow, Shark Bay bandicoots were extinct on the mainland by the 1940's, with wild populations only surviving on Bernier and Dorre Islands.

They have been translocated to other feral free sites including Mt Gibson Wildlife Sanctuary and Faure Island. They have been reintroduced to Dirk Hartog Island National Park as part of the *Return to 1616* Ecological Restoration Project.

Current distribution (approximate)



Quick facts

Head-body:	173 - 226mm
Tail:	81 - 106mm
Average weight:	168 - 302g
Gestation:	12 - 13 days
Number of young:	1 - 3
Weaned:	60 - 75 days

Conservation Status

Introduced predators (feral cats and foxes) pose the greatest threat to the Shark Bay bandicoot.

A papilloma virus is present in the Bernier Island population but not the bandicoots on Dorre Island.



Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018



DID YOU KNOW?

Shark Bay bandicoots are the 'hobbit' of the bandicoot world being the smallest species.