

# Shark Bay mouse

*Pseudomys fieldi*



**Description:** The Shark Bay mouse is a small, robust native rodent with large black eyes. Its long, shaggy brown fur fades to white underneath, and its lightly furred tail is longer than its head and body.

Although Shark Bay mice build burrows, they shelter mostly in nests under vegetation. They also build tunnels and runways through piles of seagrass on beaches.

**Diet and Habitat:** These native mice live mainly in coastal dunes and other sandy areas sheltered by beach spinifex. They are omnivorous, feeding on flowers, leaves, insects and spiders.

Shark Bay mice may also be found among wattle and hard spinifex habitat further inland.

**Breeding:** The Shark Bay mouse breeds mostly between May and November and a female may breed twice a year.

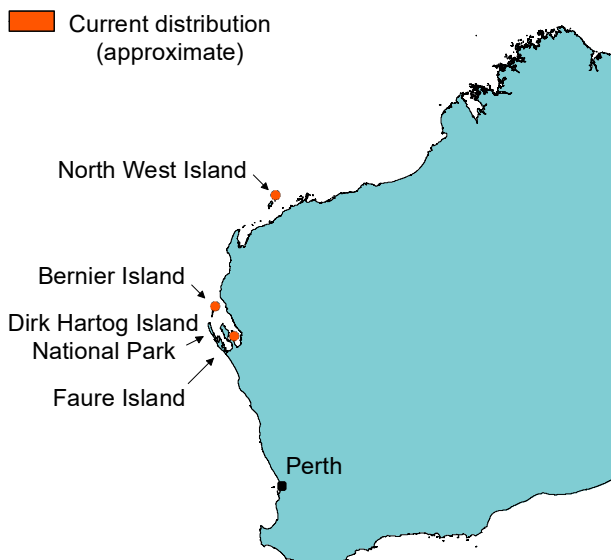
The young attach to her teats and are dragged around beneath her when she is on the move.

Young are fully grown after 100 days and individuals can live more than two years.

**Distribution:** Once widespread through the south-west of Western Australia and into central Australia, the Shark Bay mouse became extinct on the mainland soon after European settlement.

Natural wild populations are now only found on Bernier Island with reintroduced populations on Faure Island and on North West Island. Australian Wildlife Conservancy has begun reintroductions to Mt Gibson Wildlife Sanctuary.

They are proposed for reintroduction to Dirk Hartog Island National Park as part of the *Return to 1616* Ecological Restoration Project.



## Quick facts

Head-body:	80 - 115mm
Tail:	115 - 125mm
Average weight:	30 - 61g
Gestation:	28 days
Number of young:	3 - 4
Weaned:	30 days

## Conservation Status

Threats to the Shark Bay mouse include predation by feral cats and foxes; habitat changes caused by introduced hooved herbivores and competition with rabbits.



Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018



Photo ©W Lawler, Australian Wildlife Conservancy

## DID YOU KNOW?

Male Shark Bay mice share nesting duties with the female to raise their young.