

Boodie (burrowing bettong)

Bettongia lesueur lesueur

Fact sheet

SHARK BAY World Heritage

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.

Although the posture of boodies is hunched, they hop on hind legs like other macropods.

A snub nose, small ears and white tail tip help distinguish this bettong from the brush-tailed bettong (woylie).

Head-body
350-400mm

Tail
300mm

Weight
1.5kg

Diet and habitat



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

Boodies 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.

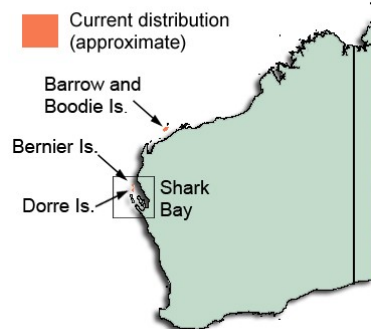
Boodies reach sexual maturity within their first year and can live for three years or longer.

Gestation
3 weeks

No. young
1

Weaned
5-6 months

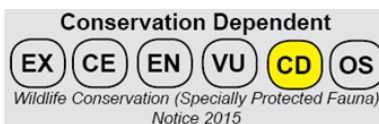
Distribution



Boodies once had the largest geographic range of any Australian mammal, but were extinct on the mainland by the early 1960s.

Wild boodies can now only be found on a few Western Australian islands, including Bernier and Dorre islands in Shark Bay. They will be reintroduced to Dirk Hartog Island as part of the *Return to 1616* project.

Status



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



Department of
Parks and Wildlife

