

Southern Brown Bandicoot

Isodon obesulus obesulus



Southern Brown Bandicoots are medium-sized marsupials with long snouts, small rounded ears and large rumps. They are solitary animals that live for two to three years.

Diet

Southern Brown Bandicoots are omnivorous and forage for food under leaf litter and, in the soil, by digging distinctive cone-shaped holes. They stay close to cover when they search for food and eat ants, insects and worms (both adults and larvae), fungi, fruits and other plant material. When vegetation becomes more mature and fully grown there may be fewer food resources available for the bandicoot, whereas after fire, there are abundant insects in the revegetation areas which provide food, and the new, diverse vegetation provides habitat. Therefore, in some habitats there is evidence that they prefer areas that are burnt from time to time.

Breeding

Breeding takes place from winter through to summer and females usually give birth from two to four young per litter. They can have several litters per breeding season, but less than half of their young survive to maturity.

Habitat

Southern Brown Bandicoots can be found in the Mount Lofty Ranges, Kangaroo Island and the South East of South Australia. This eastern subspecies is one of five subspecies of Southern Brown Bandicoot, two of which live in South Australia. The Southern Brown Bandicoot lives in dense scrubby habitats or areas with dense, low ground cover.

They sleep in nests made of grass and other plant material that may be mixed with earth. These can be very well hidden in dense vegetation or among debris. Dense understorey vegetation is vital to the bandicoots' survival as it protects them from predators.

Threats

Threats to the Southern Brown Bandicoot include: vegetation clearing, inappropriate fire regimes (too many fires are also harmful to their habitat) and predation by foxes and cats. Habitat loss and fragmentation leads to isolated populations which are more vulnerable to chance events and other threats.



Map courtesy of Mapping Unit, Customer and Commercial Services.

Map is not intended to indicate spatial distribution of the species, only the bioregions in which the species is found.



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Making do! Where their native habitat has been disturbed or destroyed, bandicoots sometimes use the dense cover of weedy blackberry thickets as a substitute.

Conservation

Regional and National Recovery Plans have been developed to maintain, protect and improve Southern Brown Bandicoot populations in Australia.

You can help the Southern Brown Bandicoot by:

- being a responsible pet owner – desex your cats and dogs, keep them inside at night and don't take them into national parks as dogs and cats can kill bandicoots. Keep dogs on a leash in areas where bandicoots live.
- getting involved with a conservation group near you
- educating your community about Southern Brown Bandicoots and other local species, and encourage councils and community groups to protect even small patches of native bush.



Photo by Kirstin Long

Southern Brown Bandicoot



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For further information

Public enquiries

For more local information on any of the species in this resource please contact your nearest Natural Resource Centre office on:

Eastwood: (08) 8273 9100

Gawler: (08) 8523 7700

Lobethal: (08) 8389 5900

Willunga: (08) 8550 3400

Education enquiries

For teachers wanting more information about environmental education resources and opportunities please contact the relevant NRM Education sub regional team on:

Northern Adelaide: (08) 8406 8289

Barossa: (08) 8563 8436

Central Adelaide: (08) 8234 7255

Southern Adelaide: (08) 8384 0176

Southern Fleurieu: (08) 8551 0524



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