



STUDENT FACT SHEET

WILKINTI (DUSKY HOPPING MOUSE) AND OOARRI (FAWN HOPPING MOUSE) *Notomys fuscus and Notomys cervinus*

Both the Dusky Hopping Mouse and Fawn Hopping Mouse are found in northern parts of South Australia and adjoining states. They live in small groups in burrows with a series of entrances leading to chambers and tunnels up to one metre below the surface.

IDENTIFICATION

The Dusky and Fawn Hopping Mice are nocturnal, have long back legs and a tufted tail end. Both species are white below and usually a reddish orange colour above but may range from a light fawn to a more of a coffee colour. Their bodies reach about 5-6 cm in length, but their long tails are up to around 15 cm long!

Both female and male Dusky Hopping Mice have a well-developed throat pouch with a prominent fleshy margin covered with stiff white hair. A small hairless pigment pouch is present on the chest of all the male Fawn Hopping Mice and some females.

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT

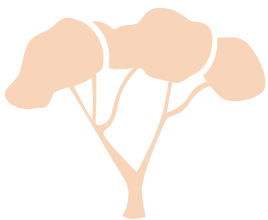
Despite their similar appearance, Dusky and Fawn hopping mice have quite different habitat preferences. Dusky Hopping Mice inhabit soft sandy areas, preferring dunes with Sandhill Canegrass, Sandhill Wattle, Nitrebush and Hopbush. The Fawn Hopping mouse usually inhabits gibber plains with low Saltbush and often wanders onto nearby claypans. Both species were formerly widespread but are now thought to be restricted to areas east of Lake Eyre.

POTENTIAL THREATS TO DUSKY AND FAWN HOPPING MICE

Following European arrival Dusky Hopping Mice are thought to have declined due to competition with Rabbits and House Mice. The Fawn Hopping Mouse's distribution has not had such a noticeable reduction, possibly because it inhabits the more extensive and harder soils of the gibber plains where it is less likely to be so heavily impacted by competition from rabbits and hunting by foxes.



Australian Government



FOCUS QUESTION

Why do you think these mice have a tuft at the end of their tails?

Fawn Hopping Mouse. Photograph by Harald Ehmann.



Dusky Hopping Mouse. Photograph by Peter Canty.





CONTACT US

South Australian Arid
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Management Board

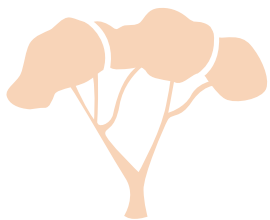
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KOWARI

Dasycerus byrnei

Kowaris are aggressively carnivorous mammals, renowned for their feisty personality and oversized appetite. They belong to the Dasyurid family of Marsupials, which also includes the Tasmanian Devil and Quolls (Native Cats). In just one night Kowaris can cover up to 1.7km, eating whatever prey or small carrion they catch or find. Kowaris use one deep shelter burrow for several nights but may have multiple burrow sites within their home range which may be up to 25km². During cool months kowaris may bask and sand bathe at the burrow entrance in the sun-warmed sand.

IDENTIFICATION

Kowaris are predominantly solitary and nocturnal. They are sometimes seen with a spotlight or in car headlights as they run and bound erratically on the stony flats where they usually live. They have grey fur and a characteristic tail with a thick 'brush' of black hairs that is held upright as they run.

Male Kowaris reach a body length of around 18 cm and can weigh up to 140 grams. Their tails reach a length of about 14 cm. Females are slightly smaller, reaching a maximum weight of about 105 grams.

FOCUS QUESTION

What are some of the things people can do to help preserve Kowari habitats?

Kowari habitat. Photograph by Michelle Watson.



HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION

Present-day Kowari populations occur almost entirely on wide gibber plains that have occasional and scattered low mounds of wind-blown sand held in place by the roots of shrubs and grass.



Kowari. Photograph by Harald Ehmann.

POTENTIAL THREATS TO KOWARIS

Kowaris are hunted by Dingoes, Foxes and Raptors (such as Owls and Letter-winged kites) which can rapidly increase in response to local plagues of locusts, Long-haired Rats and Rabbits. When these plagues crash, the remaining predators may heavily prey on Kowari populations. During drier times the sand mounds used by Kowaris could become trampled and overgrazed by high numbers of cattle.

Ampurta with distinct tail crest, unlike the Kowari which has a thicker black "brush" tail. Photograph by Michelle Watson.

