

LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

This PDF has been created for digital preservation. It may be used for research but is not suitable for other purposes. It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.

QUENDA



SOUTHERN BROWN BANDICOOT

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Isoodon obesulus fusciventer*

IDENTIFICATION: Coarse dark greyish or yellowish brown fur above and creamy-white below and a tapered, dark brown tail. The ears are short and rounded. The tail is often shortened or missing altogether, probably as a result of fighting, and lightly furred.

Head and body length 300–360 mm (males) 280–330 mm (females)

Tail length 90–140 mm (males) 90–140 mm (females)

Weight 0.5–1.6 kg (males) 0.4–1.1 kg (females)

HABITAT: Dense scrubby, often swampy, vegetation with dense cover up to one metre high, often feeds in adjacent forest and woodland that is burnt on a regular basis and in areas of pasture and cropland lying close to dense cover. Populations inhabiting Jarrah and Wandoo forests are usually associated with watercourses. Quendas will thrive in more open habitat subject to exotic predator control. For example, Quendas have become abundant in Lake Magenta Nature Reserve in Mallee scrub and woodland following fox control. On the Swan Coastal Plain, Quendas are often associated with wetlands.

DIET: The quenda is omnivorous. The diet includes invertebrates (including earthworms, adult beetles and their larvae), underground fungi, subterranean plant material, and very occasionally, small vertebrates. The species changes its diet seasonally as different foods become available.

STATUS: Lower Risk

INTERESTING FACTS:

- The name bandicoot is Indonesian for rat.
- Bandicoots in general are believed to live for approximately three years if an individual can secure a home range.
- Males have been known to bare their teeth in a threat display.

