

**Native mammals** are mostly nocturnal, so very few are ever seen during the day. The best time for seeing these fabulous forest creatures is at night when they emerge from nests and hollows to feed. Here is a sample of the treasures in Denmark's local forests that you may be lucky enough to see!

**Brush Tailed Phascogale** – *Phascogale tapoatafa*

Description: Nocturnal animal with grey fur and black bushy tail. Long toes with sharp claws assist it to climb trees.  
Diet: Mainly eats invertebrates under tree bark and in tree hollows. May eat smaller animals if needed.  
Distribution and Habitat: Found in jarrah, karri and marri forests of the region. Requires numerous older trees for adequate food supplies and hollows.



**Western Pygmy Possum** – *Cercartetus concinnus*

Description: Very small nocturnal animal with soft reddish-brown fur and pale underside. Features include large eyes and ears; handlike feet and prehensile tail.  
Diet: Insects, nectar and flowers.  
Distribution and Habitat: Found in forests with an understorey of flowering species. Best time to spot them is in Spring.



**Quenda (Southern brown bandicoot)** – *Isoodon obesulus*

Description: Similar in size to a rabbit, the quenda has dark greyish brown fur with yellow flecks; large hindquarters which taper to a pointed snout and small rounded ears.  
Diet: Bulbs and invertebrates dug up with strong claws are the main diet.  
Distribution and Habitat: Threatened – Found in dense understorey areas of forests, heath and scrubland. Favour wetter areas such as watercourses and wetlands. Best seen at dawn or dusk.



**Bush rat** *Rattus fuscipes*

Description: Dense, soft fur, grey-brown on top fading to a lighter shade underneath. Small but conspicuous ears. Tail uniformly coloured, slightly shorter than its head-body length (compared to the pest rat *Rattus rattus* – with rings on tail and tail longer than head-body length).  
Diet: Mainly insects, supplemented with plant material mainly during winter, and mushrooms after fire.  
Distribution and Habitat: It is widespread and common, though rarely seen due to its shy nature. Areas of shrubby, ferny undergrowth, so most likely to be found in more densely vegetated gully areas. Scats often found around logs used for shelter.

Refer to the leaflet *Birds, Reptiles, Frogs & Mammals of the Beveridge Road and Denmark River Bush Reserves* for a comprehensive list of local fauna (available from Denmark Environment Centre). Other references: *The Complete Book of Australian Mammals* (Museum of Victoria) and WA Department of Environment and Conservation.