

Categorizing

Northern bettongs are **mammals** who like the wet tropics in North Queensland, Australia, between Cairns and Townsville. They live in eucalypt grasslands within a 7 to 8 km wide area. Their scientific name is ***Bettong tropica*** also known as the rat kangaroo.

Scientific Language

High level of detail

Males are larger than females. The male's height is 30-36cm long from head to tail and weighs about 18kg. A female's height is 25-36cm and weighs 0.75-15kg. The Northern bettong has a grey-brown furry back and tail with a silver tip, their faces, ears, and sides are brown, their belly is pale blue-grey. The front and back paws are pale brown. Their front legs are great for digging up their food.

Complex concepts converted to common terminology.

Topic sentence about breeding and young

A Northern bettong can have babies from five or six months of age. They can breed at any time of the year, producing two to three litters a year of a single young. The pregnancy is for about twenty-one days. The babies live in their **mother's pouch** between one hundred and ten days to one hundred and fifteen days. Northern bettongs live to about six years of age.

Topic Nouns

Labelled diagram



The population is very tiny and is estimated to be less than two thousand five hundred. Feral cats have reduced in the bettong species, which is one of the reasons they are endangered. **They also have had major habitat loss, due to land clearing for development and agriculture.**

Cause and effect relationship

Brief closing comment

Due to habitat loss and predators, the Northern bettong's population is decreasing. Meaning we need to do more, to help bettongs population increase by reducing land clearing and development within their habitat.

Present Tense