



FACTSHEET

Bobtail



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Common Name: Rottnest Island Bobtail

Scientific Name: *Tiliqua rugose konowi*

Noongar Name: Yooran

Conservation Status: Not listed under IUCN (2016). Listed as Vulnerable under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950. All Rottnest Island's fauna is protected under the *Rottnest Island Authority Act 1987*.

Habitat: Limestone heath, Settlement area, Woodland, Coastal habitat.

Body length: 124-310 mm

Weight: 600-900 g

Gestation period: 119-125 days

Number of young: 2-3 (born live)

Description:

The Rottnest Island Bobtail, also known as a Shingleback, is a relatively large skink. It is heavily armoured with large rough pine-cone-like scales. It is olive brown to black in colour and has irregular pale bands on

its body and tail. Its head is often a lighter olive brownish black and can be flecked with orange. The Bobtail has a yellow belly and short legs. It has a large triangular-shaped head and a short stumpy tail. It has a distinctive ink-blue tongue.

Diet:

Plant material (especially fruit), insects, slugs, snails, eggs, faeces and dead animal carcasses including maggots.

In the Wild:

Rottnest Island Bobtails are common around limestone rocks. You can often see them sunning themselves on these rocks or on path-sides or paved areas. They move at a slow crawl but can move quite quickly if disturbed. When frightened or angry, this harmless skink opens its mouth to show its ink-blue tongue and makes a hissing noise.

Threats:

- Roadkill from buses
- Poaching
- Uncontrolled fire

DID YOU KNOW?

The Bobtail's tail is a defence against predators. It is short, stumpy and head-like to confuse predators. It also is used to store fat reserves.