

## San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat

(*Dipodomys merriami parvus*)

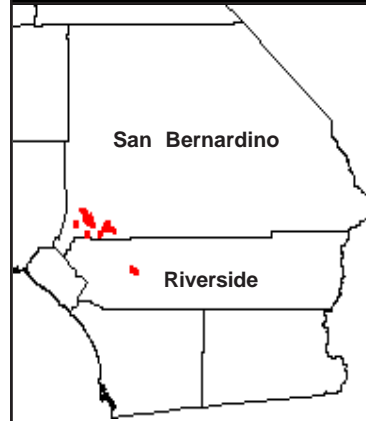
Status -- Federal: Endangered; California: None



Photo: Arthur Davenport, USFWS

The San Bernardino kangaroo rat (SBKR) is a small, nocturnal, burrowing subspecies of Merriam's kangaroo rat. It is active year-round, considerably darker and smaller than other kangaroo rat species. The SBKR has pale yellow and dusky brown fur, and dark brown tail stripes, footpads, and tail hairs. It can be distinguished from Pacific and Stephens' kangaroo rats in that it has 4 toes, instead-

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Data Sources: CDFG Nat. Diversity Data Base,, 1998, USFWS, 1998

of 5, on each of its hind feet. The San Bernardino kangaroo rat measures an average of 9.5 cm (3.7 in) in body length, and 23 - 25 cm (9 - 10 in) in total length (tail included).

**Habitat.** SBKRs prefer alluvial scrub/ coastal sage scrub habitats on gravelly and sandy soils adjoining river and stream terraces, and on alluvial fans; and rarely occur in dense vegetation or rocky washes.

**Distribution.** Historically, their range included over 300,000 acres of alluvial scrub habitat in San Bernardino and Riverside counties. Currently, they occupy approximately 3,240 acres of suitable habitat, divided among 7 widely separated locations in both counties. The

remaining occupied habitat is threatened by habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation due to sand and gravel mining operations, flood control projects, and urban development. In addition, all SBKR remaining populations are threatened by seasonal flood events due to current restriction to these active flood plain habitats.

**Food.** The San Bernardino kangaroo rat primarily feeds on seeds, often storing large quantities of food for future use. Green vegetation and insects are also important seasonal food sources. SBKRs are also known for their ability to live indefinitely without water, on a diet consisting mainly of dry seeds.

**Reproduction.** They breed from January through late November, with peak reproduction occurring in late June. Usually one litter is produced per year, averaging between 2 and 3 young.



California Department of Pesticide Regulation  
Endangered Species Program  
[www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/endspec/index.htm](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/endspec/index.htm)

