



# Lepus microtis

Common name: African savanna hare

Latin name: *Lepus microtis*

Local name: أرنب الخلاء



## ECOLOGY

### Type:

Wild

### Role in Ecosystem:

The African savanna hare is prey for birds of prey, snakes and other carnivores in the wild.

## HABITAT

The African savanna hare is found in many habitats, including grassland, mountainous areas and woodland in sub-saharan and south eastern Africa.



### Food

Herbivore

African savanna hares feed on grasses, roots, shoots, bark and fruit. They will also consume their feces to extract nutrients from it.



### Movement and Communication

#### Communication:

African savanna hares have very good sight, hearing, and sense of smell, which helps them escape predators. Their ears movements communicate different moods with different positions. They drum with their forelegs or grind their teeth to alert other hares to the presence of predators. Both of these produce sounds that are barely audible to humans, but can be detected by other hares from a great distance. Females make bleating calls to their young. Hares emit loud screams when caught or wounded.

#### Movement:

African savanna hares are very good runners, and can reach speeds of 70 km per hour. They run and leap in a zig-zag pattern as a defence mechanism to lose the predator and break their scent trail. While hares do not burrow, they may seek refuge in holes and burrows dug by other animals.



### Social Habits

Solitary

African savanna hares are solitary or feed in groups of two or three. They are also nocturnal, and rarely seen during daylight hours. They rely heavily on camouflage for hiding. Aggression and fights are common between males during breeding times.



### Reproduction

Viviparous

African savanna hares are thought to reproduce at any time of year, with females gives birth to one or two young several times during the year.

The young are born in the open, with their eyes open and able to run soon after birth. The mother separates the young and nurses them at intervals. They are weaned when about a month old and reach sexual maturity in one to two years.



### Attributes



#### Appearance:

The African savanna hare is a medium-sized species. The ears have black tips, the dorsal surface of head and body is greyish-brown, the sides and limbs are reddish-brown and the underside are white. The tail is black. Coloring varies in different regions and may be darker in some areas.

#### Length:

41 - 58 cm

#### Weight:

1.5 to 3 kilograms

#### Lifespan:

4-8 years

## INTRODUCTION

The African savanna hare is a small nimble mammal found in northwestern and sub-saharan Africa. It inhabits grasslands and mountainous areas. It is an important part of the ecosystem as it provides food for a lot of carnivores inhabiting these areas. They have also been hunted by humans since ancient times, a practice that persists today as sport.

In Sudan, they can be found in most habitats, except for the desert.

## LIVELIHOODS AND CULTURE

### Human interaction

In many regions, African savanna hares are an important source of food for nomads and travellers. Their fur is used to make leathercrafts.

### Cultural value

Hare hunting is a popular activity, and hunting *Saluki* dogs are bred especially to catch them.

### Cultural expression

بخت المرتين أرنب بين كليين

Lit.: A husband of two women is like a hare between two) hunting dogs

A proverb meaning person who marries two women is bound for misery because of how difficult it is to be fair to .both of them and their jealousy

## THREATS

African savanna hares are classified as least concern. In fact, in the absence of predators, their large numbers could greatly decrease vegetation and affect both wild and domestic herbivores.

[Image\(s\) source :](#)[Link\(s\)](#)[Compiled By:](#)