

TWIN CREEKS CONSERVATION RESERVE

FAUNA SURVEY MARCH 2024



FRIENDS OF THE PORONGURUP RANGE

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Survey dates: March 20 till 25 (inclusive). Starting time: 7am.

Weather Conditions: Cool autumn mornings with varying night and day temperatures. Minimum from 7 - 13C, during the day rising towards low twenties. Some mornings with light rain, skies from fully overcast to clear blue. New moon on March 25.

About the traps: Only the pitfall traps in trapline number 5, 'the grid', were opened, just to do a quick and easy fauna survey in this heath and sandy area of Twin Creeks. Traps were closed after the morning check on March 25. Surveying 100 pitfall traps during 5 nights add up to 500 trap nights.

Total hours: 6 People were involved and a total of 60 hours spent during this survey.

Findings:

This was a first fauna survey during this time of the year since February 2021 and a lot of young adult vertebrates were found especially skinks and also a juvenile tiger snake.

*Vertebrates: The surprising find was the juvenile tiger snake. The young, 15 - 20 hatchlings in a litter, are born during this time of the year, after the birth the mother goes her own way and the newborns have to look after themselves.

8 Frogs of different varieties, in a healthy state but hard to identify without having Loxley Fedec around.

40 Skinks, sized 20 to 60mm SVL (snout vent length). 1 Male honey possum in very good condition: healthy weight, good size and quick moving.

*Invertebrates: Many ant eating spiders were caught: Zodariidae, almost all of them have coloured spots on their abdomen. More spiders and many other kind of critters were observed and put on iNaturalist. Still many more that have not been identified.

A big thank you to the TEAM: Lucia Quearry, Judy McKinnon, Lorraine and Ken Stevens, Sarah Date and Sanni Ten Hengel. Images by Bo Janmaat.

Here are some of the observations:



A moaning frog with a nice yellow 'party nose'.
Heleioporus eyrei, common in the southwest.

For the first time observed: a burying and carrion beetle: *Ptomaphila*. Pretty common but probably have to look under a cadaver to find them.



A zebra spider wasp, related to the velvet ant. *Turneromyia*. These wasps paralyse their pray, often a spider, and put them in their mud nest as feed for their larvae.

A bristle fly, family Tachinidae. A very beneficial fly because the larvae are parasitic on other insects including pest



A member of the Antlions and Owlflies family, Subfamily *Myrmeleontinae*, These larvae dig cone-like holes in the ground and hide at the bottom, prey gets caught with their big jaws. They turn into flies with a big wingspan and long body.



A Matchstick grasshopper, subfamily Morabinae. Endemic to Australia and common in the South West.

Juvenile Western tigersnake, *Notechis scutatus occidentalis*. Expected to be around this time of the year. This one has some bulges, probably had a good meal. The sand was left on its body just in case, not sure if a bite is harmful,.



Habronestes, an ant eating spider. Ground dweller that goes after the slower and weaker ants. Some make a burrow in the sand or leaf litter

Dexerra vigescens, shield back katydid. Just a couple of observations in the South West and not much is known about them. This fella is missing one hind leg.



Morethia obscura, Scrubland morethia skink. Common in the South West. These skinks eat almost every insect that they can handle, good for your garden!

For more survey reports visit the FOPR website or scan this QR code.



FOPR website Fauna survey page
<https://porongurup.org.au/fauna.html>

Table 1

	Phylum / Subphylum	Class / Order / Family				
Vertebrates	Chordata / Vertebrata	Reptilia / Squamata / Scincidae	Skinks	40		
	Chordata / Vertebrata	Reptilia / Squamata / Serpentes	Snakes	1		
	Chordata / Vertebrata	Reptilia / Squamata / Aprasia	Legless lizards	2		
	Chordata / Vertebrata	Amphibia / Anura /	Frogs	8		
	Chordata / Vertebrata	Mammalia / Diprotodontia / Tarsipedidae	Honey possums	1		
Invertebrates	Anthropoda / Chelicerata	Arachnida / Araneae /	Spiders	141		
	Anthropoda / Chelicerata	Arachnida / Scorpiones /	Scorpions	5		
	Anthropoda / Chelicerata	Arachnida / Ixodida / Ixodidae	Ticks	5		
	Anthropoda / Chelicerata	Chilopoda / Scolopendromorpha / Scolopendridae	Centipedes	6		
	Anthropods / Crustacea	Malacostraca / Isopods /	Slaters	8		
	Anthropoda / Hexapods	Insecta / Coleoptera /	Beetles	72		
	Anthropoda / Hexapods	Insecta / Orthoptera /	Crickets, Grasshoppers, Katydid	115		
	Anthropoda / Hexapods	Insecta / Hymenoptera / Formicidae	Ants	66		
	Anthropoda / Hexapods	Insecta / Mantodea / Mantidae	Mantis	2		
	Anthropoda / Hexapods	Insecta / Blattodea /	Cockroaches	4		
	Anthropoda / Hexapods	Insecta / Hemiptera / Reduniidae	Assassin bug	5		
	Anthropoda / Hexapods	Insecta / Dermaptera /	Earwigs	6		
	Anthropoda / Hexapods	Insecta / Diptera /	Flies	6		
	Anthropoda / Hexapods	Insecta / Diptera /	Maggot	1		
	Anthropoda / Hexapods	Insecta / Zygentoma / Lepismatidae	Silverfish	1		
	Anthropoda / Hexapods	Entognatha / Etomobryomorpha /	Springtails	9		
	Anthropoda / Hexapods	Insecta / Lepidoptera /	Moths			
	Anthropoda / Hexapods	Insecta / Diptera	Crane flies	2		
	Anthropoda / Hexapods	Insecta / Hymenoptera /	Bees, wasps	7		
	Mollusca	Gastropoda / Stylommatophora / Bothriembryontidae	Bothriembryon snail	1		
	Annelida	Clitellata / Crassiclitellata / Lumbricidae	Earthworm	1		