

TWIN CREEKS CONSERVATION RESERVE

FAUNA SURVEY OCTOBER 2023



FRIENDS OF THE PORONGURUP RANGE

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Survey dates: October 18 till 24 (inclusive). Starting time: 7am.

Weather Conditions: Cool spring mornings with varying night and day temperatures. Minimum from 6 - 14C, during the day rising towards low twenties. One night of light rain, skies from fully overcast to clear blue. New moon on October 29.

About the traps: All traplines with drift nets were opened on the first day: trapline nr: 1,2,3,4,6,8. The pitfall traps of trapline 7 were still full of water and also one at trapline 8, they remained closed. On day 4 all open traps were closed after checking. The pitfall traps in the grid, trapline 5, were all opened. On day 7 these were closed as well after the morning check.

A total of 132 traps were open during part of the 6 survey days which added up to 396 trap nights.

Total hours: 7 People were involved in the survey and a total of 80 hours spent during this survey, including 8 hours of prep time.

Findings:

*Vertebrates: About 37 frogs dropped into the traps, none of them very big, and with an array of different patterns on their back. It was challenging to pin them down to species level, their call would be needed to determine this. 15 Skinks were observed, with the remarkable detail that more *Acritoscincus trilineati* were recorded than we ever had before. 2 Honey possums: one male, one female. 1 Male pygmy possum was found. All possum specimens were in good condition.

*Invertebrates: We had 5 Proshermachas, four males and one female, all of them only found in trapline 1 and 6, which would indicate that they like the laterite soil.

Many spiders, weevils, scarab beetles, katydids, earth worms, cockroaches, ants, centipedes, Caterpillars and other insects had fallen into our traps. Many identification discussions took place on iNaturalist.

A big thank you to the TEAM: Lucia Quearry, Judy McKinnon, Garry Mulder, Sarah Date, Sayah Drummond, Kirsty Low and Sanni Ten Hengel. Images by Bo Janmaat.

Below are some of our observations:



Mygalomorph trap door spider: Proshermacha of the family of Wishbone spiders. Body is 31mm. This specimen is a female, it has no spurs on the front legs. The female Proshermacha leave their burrow just to hunt close by, mostly during night time.



In the vicinity of the pitfall trap where we caught the Proshermacha we found this burrow, 1.5m away. On the image the spider is just entering the burrow. She waited about 10 seconds, so did not enter straight away. Is it her burrow? (left)

Another Proshermacha, this time a male (with spurs, one visible on underside of upper left leg) 24mm body. (right)



Corasoides occidentalis, of the Porterinae spider family. This specimen had 35mm long legs. (left)





Another *Corasoides occidentalis*, long jawed spider. You can easily see the 'sperm sacks' (embolus) on the pedipalps.



Bothriembryon snails. 4 were found with slightly differing patterns to each other. Currently there are three different lineages in and around Porongurup including Twin Creeks and Surrey Downs Reserve.



Ecnolagria aeneoviolacea, Tribe Lagriini, genus *Ecnolagria*. Looks a bit like a weevil but it's a Long-jointed bark beetle. Interesting looking beetles, slow moving and non-carnivorous, often metallic coloured. We found many of them. these ones have different colours, male - female? or different species? 11mm.



Two specimen of the family Reduviidae (Assassin bugs), right Genus *Coranus*, 11mm, left, Tribe *Stenopodaini*, 11mm



Aprasia repens, legless Sedgeland worm-lizard. 150mm



Blue tongue lizard, *Tiliqua rugosa*, male and female.



Weevil: *Taurinus* of the tribe Amycterini, 25mm.



True Cricket, Superfamily Grylloidea. Antennae a bit longer than the body, but what happened to its hind legs, they cannot be under its body. 10mm



A Pedunculate burrowing ground beetle, genus *Scaraphites*. This beetle was hanging on Bo's finger, there was a lot of power in his bite. 35 mm mandibles included.



Dusty surface beetle, genus *Gonocephalum*, 13mm.



Scarab beetle, 13mm.



Genus *Onthophagus*, a beetle of the true dung beetle family Scarabaeinae. Male has its 'horn' on the front of its head. 5mm



Ground beetle of the family Carabidae, genus *Phorticosomus*. A beetle from a very big worldwide diverse family which lives mainly on the ground in leaf litter, under bark and in other decaying organic matter. 14mm



Scarab beetle 4mm



Beetle, 7mm. Often seen in flowers.

