

TWIN CREEKS CONSERVATION RESERVE

FAUNA SURVEY APRIL 2019

FRIENDS OF THE PORONGURUP RANGE

Reported by
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Introduction: The main objective of this survey was to establish whether honey possums were still present in autumn. In addition, we were interested in finding what other wildlife was active in the bush at that time year.

Weather Conditions: Two mornings with light rain, mostly dry days. Temperatures were around 10 degrees in the morning; a slight wind at times. We had the advantage of a black moon on April 5.

About the traps: All pitfall traps were opened on Sunday March 31 and closed on Friday April 5 after the morning check. No other methods of trapping were used during this survey.

Findings:

During the survey we caught 8 male **honey possums**, *Tarsipes rostratus*, in the vicinity of *Calothamnus gracilis* which is pictured on the right. We concluded that honey possums take their food (nectar) from Calothamnus when in flower.



Spiders were in abundance with 76 spread across 8 different species recorded.

This suggested to us many smaller insects and invertebrates are available to spiders as a food source when the bush understorey is healthy.

This large Mygalomorph spider (2cm body length), which is pictured on the left, is thought to be a *Proschemmacha sp.* and was set aside for further examination.

Open-burrowed dwellers, Proschemmacha are usually found in moist Porongurup and Stirling Range habitats. We did not expect that Twin Creeks would provide the same conditions. Julianne Waldoock, arachnid technical officer at the WA Museum, showed interest when we told her about the find; the specimen was sent to the museum for further morphological identification and DNA sequencing.

Another interesting find was a large **weevil**, *Talaurinus sp* (about 25mm long) with a distinctive spine as shown in the picture to the right. Not having grown up surrounded by this type of creature it looked like something from a bygone era to me; like a dinosaur. Very common but exciting! Part of the ancient species of weevils perhaps? Following from this sighting, we found others belonging to different species and of smaller sizes.



Various species of skinks, scorpions, frogs, centipedes, beetles, an earthworm, praying mantis, many small and some large crickets were found and recorded during the survey. The endemic **skink** *Lerista microtis* is pictured left.



Brush tail wallaby, *Macropus irma* (aka Black glove wallaby or Western brush wallaby) was spotted on two mornings near Trapline 6 on the southern hill of Twin Creeks; there were no other signs of wallabies or young ones. During the April 2016 survey, two Brush tail wallabies were spotted simultaneously in the same area.

The number of species located and recorded are listed on the following page.

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THE NUMBERS

FAUNA	NUMBERS	SPECIES	
Wolfspider	48		
Other spiders	28	8 species	
Blind snakes	2	2 species	1 purple + 1 brown (found during opening traps)
skinks	20	4 species	
scorpions	15	2 species	tail standing up + tail flat
weevil	6	4 species	very big + small
honey possum	8	all males	Calothamnus spp flowering in locations where the possums were trapped
Frogs	11	6 species	
Centipede	7	5 black (caught more)	2 orange of which 1 very thin + long
Beetles	12	7 species	
Stick insect	1		
Earthworm	1		
Praying mantis	1		
Big crickets	5		
Small crickets	many		lost count
Brush tail wallaby	2	sight only	probably same one
House mouse	2		