



TWIN CREEKS CONSERVATION RESERVE

FAUNA SURVEY JUNE 2020



FRIENDS OF THE PORONGURUP RANGE

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Survey dates: June 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26 2020. Starting time was 7am.

Weather Conditions: Skies from fully covered to clear blue, mostly dry but 8mm of rain one morning, little to no wind. Early morning temperatures 5-10c, daytime temperatures just under 20c. New moon on June 21.

About the traps: All traps were opened on Sunday June 21 and closed on Friday June 26. A total of 130 pitfall traps. Because of the cold weather we did not use cages and Elliott traps.

Introduction: The autumn survey was cancelled this year because of Covid - 19. As soon as restrictions around physical distancing were relaxed we planned a survey which resulted in the survey taking place between a normal autumn and winter survey.

During surveys in the past we only looked at larger fauna like skinks, frogs and honey possums. However over time we realised the great opportunity we had with what we are actually catching in our pitfalls. So from now on everything caught in a pitfall trap gets recorded which gives us a very good image of what is happening in the bush at Twin Creeks. You will see this in the "TCCR Fauna Count Overview" sheet, starting with the first survey by Nic Dunlop in 2015.

Findings: On the warmest night (minimum temperature 10c degrees) we caught a pygmy possum. After the wettest night we counted five Mygalomorphae Eucyrtops trapdoor spiders; none on other days.

We found mating beetles and millipedes and in a collapsed trap (broken lid) we found 7 fat skinks (don't know how long they had been in there).

During the remainder of the survey we registered only one small Three-Lined Western Skink.

The mouse spider, *Missulena granulosa*, which has not been caught before at Twin Creeks, included 12 beautiful and angry red and blue spiders.

The black-gloved wallaby, which we have seen during previous surveys, was not there maybe because its favourite paddock had been disturbed during remedial work.

No honey possums again and although the *Calothamnus gracilis* bushes were flowering there was not an abundance of flowers.

Loxley Fedec's connection with Julianne Waldock, Arachnology Technical Officer Western Australian Museum, was very helpful. Julianne requested 7 spider species to be sent to her for further identification.

Thanks to Lucia Quearry, Garry Mulder, Loxley and Kathleen Faulkner for assisting with the survey and Julianne, Loxley and iNaturalist for identifications.

Images by Bo Janmaat

Mouse spider, *Missulena granulosa*:
Very angry looking and ready to attack.
Red pedipalps, blue abdomen and big fangs.



The pygmy possum was curled up in a stubby holder.
Their diet consists of honey and pollen but if not available, they will survive on seeds and small insects.
70mm snout vent length.

We found 4 dead introduced European honeybees in our pitfall traps.
Cause of death unknown.
Interested in finding out more about this.





We found several millipedes and a couple of them were curled up. Pretty sure these are Portuguese millipedes.



Another millipede:
Cylindroiulus caeruleocinctus

Millipedes have 2 legs per body segment. This one is deep brown.



Spider web of a platform or trampoline spider (*Corasoides occidentalis*), is flat with a funnel leading to a hiding place where the spider is waiting for prey.

Note the tracks on the web.



Close up of the web with its pattern.

Horizontal webs are only visible in the morning because of dewdrops on the web.



A hairy colourful caterpillar,
about 60mm.
Order Lepidoptera.



Weevil: always surprised about these ancient looking creatures, big or small, with pointy or round bumps, brown or black.

We find them in the traps with every survey.

This one is an *Oditesus buceros*, black with pointy bumps on its back.



Weevil: *Melanegis stygius*. Brown species with rounded bumps on its back.



Speaking of pointy bumps on the back, here is a nymph.

Later in life it will transform into a beetle, variety unknown to us.

11mm long.



A crawling toadlet, *Pseudophryne guentheri*. amazingly camouflaged. Most commonly found on sandy soils.

Brown scorpion, *Cercophonius squama*. 12mm

