

TWIN CREEKS CONSERVATION RESERVE

FAUNA SURVEY OCTOBER 2022 FRIENDS OF THE PORONGURUP RANGE



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Survey dates: October 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23, 2022. Starting time: 7am.

Weather Conditions: Comfortable spring days with cool to mild night and day temperatures. Minimum around 8C, daytime rising to about 23C. Some light rain at night, skies from fully overcast to clear blue. Dark nights with a new moon on October 25. It was decided to cancel the last day of the survey because of forecast heavy rainfall.

About the traps: A total of 136 pitfall traps were opened on Wednesday October 19. During the survey 5 traps were closed because of ant activity, Total trap nights: 530

Total hours: 6 People were involved in the survey and a total of 92.5 hours were spent on the survey during the 5 days.

Findings:

*Vertebrates:

The survey could not have started and ended any better. On the first day we found 4 honey possums in the last 3 traps of the day and on the last day we found 2 pygmy possums.

In total 12 honey possums were caught, two of them were female and one pregnant. All honey possums were found on different locations, we can say that TCCR has a healthy honey possum population. All possums were very alive, most of them enjoyed a bit of honey water feeding.

The amount of frogs was enormous: 126, the biggest amount ever and that in 4 days. No new species were encountered.

The Black Gloved Wallaby has slowly been disappearing out of this report, we did not see any.

***Invertebrates:**

Because of the cooler spring weather in general, not a lot of insects were very active, but some new species of spiders were found.

The 'TCCR FAUNA COUNT OVERVIEW' sheet compares the results of this survey with surveys of the past. (seperate from this report)

A big thank you to the TEAM: Lucia Quearry, Garry Mulder, Loxley Fedec, Jenny Loveland and Nicola Thomas. Images by Bo Janmaat



Baiami montana. A spider more primitive than an orb weaver. It does not have spinnerets but a cribellum, which is a different kind of organ to make silk for its web.

King Cricket or Raspy cricket? They are night foraging so we found many of them in the pitfalls. This is a female, she has her long ovipositor bent over her back. With the ovipositor she inserts her eggs into a plant.



A bush cockroach, genus *Euzosteria*, a native cockroach that lives in leaf litter. Short antenna and spikes on its legs. This one is 35mm long. Cockroaches often bite their mates wings off, they don't need wings while moving around in leaf litter.



Ecnolagria aeneoviolacea beetle of the Tenebrionidae family, also known as darkling or bark beetles. Length about 14mm, feeding on plant material and fungi. Often metallic coloured. We saw many of them. Pie dish beetles are of the same family.

4 honey possums in the last 3 pitfalls of the first day. Here are 3 of them, the top one is a female, she has less outstanding markings than the males.

All were very healthy and liked a bit of warm honey water. Since 2015 58 honey possums walked into a pitfall trap at TCCR.



Ocrisiona leucomis, a common jumping spider. This specimen is missing some legs.



Rosenberg goanna, just sitting and waiting till we were gone. About 600mm.

A toad bug, Nerthra family. 3 different ones were found, a sandy grey specimen, a black and this brownish one. Some species are endemic to the South West of WA, but they need a lot more studying. They have claw like front legs and are fast runners.





Grass hopper *Monistria discrepans*, short horned, cone shaped head. The small wings look like leaves. It was showing the underside of its wings which were bright red, a defence mechanism? It has a lot of small white spots on its body.

Ctenotus gemmula, jewelled south-western ctenotus. 5 Fingers, 5 toes. Snout vent length 37 mm.



Crinia georgiana, a quaking frog with a catch.

Living with no water around, how do their tadpoles grow and survive? Well they can live without water but need to stay moist. They also can change very quick into tiny little adult frogs.



Spider of the genus *Habronestes*, This is an ant eating spider endemic to Australia. First time we saw one at TCCR.

Pygmy possum, *Cercartetus concinnus*. Two were found this survey on the last day, all pygmy possums caught at TCCR since 2015 were found in different area's, 6 in total.

