

TRAPDOOR SPIDER - MYGALOMORPH – FROM THE FAMILY IDIOPIDAE



Identifying features of Eucyrtops (same family as Cataxiaboldganupensis – Pallisade Spider) are usually the jet black velvety appearance, very large pedipalps & the double spur on the tibia



BUT WAIT, WE'RE NOT THERE YET!!!!

The spider above was NOT caught in the Pit Traps but is used here for comparison. It is from the genus *Idiops* and although very similar

to the 'Eucyrtopsssp?' specimen above, *Idiops* are apparently not found in WA. Our Eucyrtops sp? in pit trap 11, Lat -34.6250500, Long 117.8936830. (WGS 84) remembering the accuracy of the GPS is to within 3m.



The burrow above right was located about a metre from the pit trap and it was thought possible it belonged to the 'Eucyrtopsssp?' specimen in the trap. It was partially concealed with leaves BUT did not appear to have a lid. The burrow also seemed too big for this size spider and without a lid it does NOT fit with a Eucyrtops ID. Mike Rix has offered an alternative ID from the genus *Teyl* (Nemesiidae Family) but although *Teyl*'s are open burrowed spiders they are generally not jet black and have different morphology. Without an ID it is difficult to offer protection. What is clear is that this particular specimen along with the other Mygalomorph spider 'Proshermachasp?' captured in the survey offer powerful evidence supporting the valuable biodiversity at Twin Creeks and will provide strength to any case to avert future threats from fire, feral's or any other.

As a conservation group I believe our objective here should be to push on to help identify the many unknown species, especially invertebrates and specifically short range endemic species such as many Mygalomorph spiders. This group of spiders usually have very restricted ranges due to their poor dispersal ability and will almost always qualify as a Threatened Species – but we need to know what they are and where they are – which takes time - before protection can be sought. Another approach may be to consider seeking protection by listing an area such as a specific 'Ecological Community' or a 'Biological Reference Area' for eg.

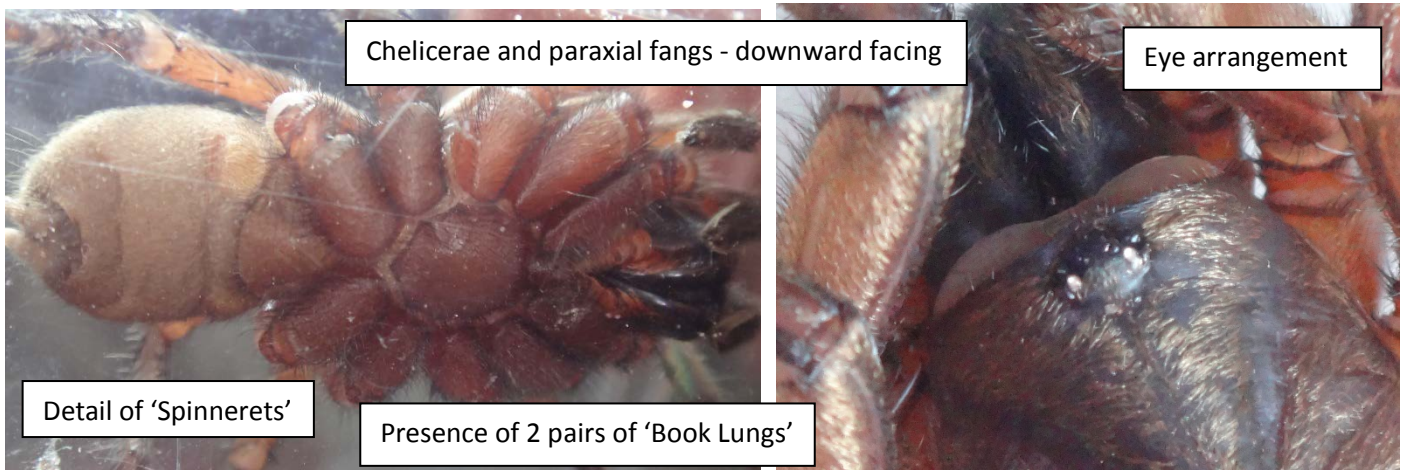
<http://museum.wa.gov.au/explore/blogs/msu/role-dna-species-discovery>

TRAPDOOR SPIDER - MYGALOMORPH – FROM THE FAMILY NEMESIIDAE



190404 'Proshermachasp?' LF IMG_5828

This large Mygalomorph spider (2cm body length) is thought to be a 'Proshermachasp?' and was retained for further examination & photographing due mainly to its unexpected location. Proshermacha are usually found in the Porongurup (down from Waddy's Hut) and Stirling Ranges and are open-burrowed dwellers and manage quite well in that moist habitat. It was not expected that Twin Creeks would provide the same level of suitable habitat. This specimen has been requested by WA Museum and dispatched for further morphological identification and DNA sequencing to assess its status.



Attention should be paid to capturing photographic detail of the above features to assist with Mygalomorph ID.



A basic understanding of the differences between Primitive Spiders (Mygalomorphs) and Modern Spiders (Aranaomorphs) is vital to recognize a species in nature most in need of conservation consideration. Generally speaking, it is usually the Mygalomorph spiders that are most at risk. The link here will explain. <https://biomeecology.com/nature/invertebrates/2018/03/glimpse-spider-evolution-phylogeny/>



Pyungoorup

TOP: The confirmed *Proshermacha* sp. Mark Harvey and Mike Rix collected from Pyungoorup Peak in the Stirlings on Friday 29th April 2019 compared to.....

BELOW: Probable '*Proshermachasp?*' as suggested ID from this photo by Juianne Waldock and Mark Harvey at WA Museum on Thursday 4th April 2019. This specimen was submitted as part of the WA Museum collection



Twin Creeks