



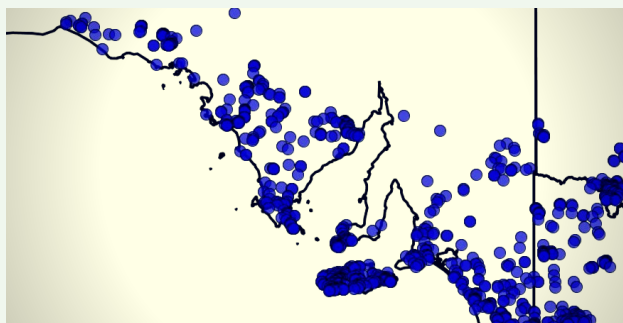
WESTERN PYGMY POSSUMS

BIOLOGY

They are nocturnal creatures that live in trees. They can breed at any time of year with up to 3 consecutive litters; with an average 2- 4 young. Adults are small with combined head and body length of 60 mm to 100 mm, about as long as your finger. They use short term torpor to conserve energy. Their population fluctuates with rainfall and food availability and will travel to find flowering plants. Believed to play a role in pollination of trees and shrubs.

DISTRIBUTION

They are found in the lower part of Australia, including the Mid Murray Region of South Australia.



THREATS

Introduced predators • Competition • Over grazing • Disease • Roadkill • Weeds • Altered fire regimes • Clearance • Mistaken ID. These possums can be confused with the common house mouse. They don't have a mousy smell, have gripping feet for climbing and a tail that curls.

If you find one alive or dead, record the date, location, photo if possible and observers name. Alive phone fauna rescue (08) 8289 0896. Dead take it to the SA Museum, all records are valuable.



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Control grazing animals in the scrub (especially browsers like kangaroos and goats) to encourage or maintain flowering shrub diversity

Avoid “cleaning up” too much as they are known to use fallen timber and hollows to sleep in. This also benefits other fauna
Keep cats inside all the time but especially at night.

Install habitat boxes on your property. Include a mix of flowering plants on your property, not only do they drink nectar from flowers but also lick the protein-rich pollen from the anthers.

They also eat insects, so shrubby plants are great for attracting insects like Acacia, Senna, Dodonaea and Maireana

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