

THREATENED SPECIES



Eastern Pygmy Possum



Photo by Esther Beaton

The Eastern Pygmy Possum is the smallest species of possum in Australia and are generally a solitary species, with each possum using a number of nests.

They prefer woodland and heath vegetation communities, and like to build their nests in tree hollows that are 100 years old or more.

Their specially adapted brush tipped tongue allows them to collect nectar and pollen from banksias, eucalypts and bottlebrushes. This species is a particularly important pollinator of heathland plants such as banksias.

During the warmer months when food is plentiful, the Eastern Pygmy Possum will accumulate body fat and the base of their tail becomes enlarged.

To conserve energy and warmth when food is scarce or the weather is cold the Eastern Pygmy Possum will hibernate, relying on the body fat stored in its tail to survive.

The Eastern Pygmy Possum is active during the night, preferring to rest in their nest during the day.