

V REPTILES AND FROGS OF YORNANING NATURE RESERVE

JOHN DELL & G. HAROLD

Reptiles and frogs were collected in Yornaning Nature Reserve during 19-27 April 1975 and 5-12 September 1975. Specimens caught (R50160-50219 and R51302-51386) are in the Western Australian Museum. A few additional specimens (R55993-94) were caught on 13 February 1977. Specimens were collected by similar methods to those outlined by Chapman & Dell (1978). For location and details of Yornaning Nature Reserve see Dell (this report).

ANNOTATED LIST

LEPTODACTYLIDAE

Heleioporus albopunctatus

One collected in April in *Casuarina huegeliana*/*Eucalyptus wandoo* woodland; 5 collected in September in *E. wandoo*/*E. longicornis* woodland on brown gravelly clay.

Limnodynastes dorsalis

Seven (including three juveniles) collected in April in *C. huegeliana*/*E. wandoo*/*E. gardneri* woodland; 2 collected in September in *E. wandoo*/*E. longicornis* woodland on brown gravelly soil.

Neobatrachus pelobatoides

Three collected in April: 2 under sheet of tin in *C. huegeliana*/*E. wandoo* woodland on sandy loam; 1 in *C. huegeliana*/*E. wandoo*/*E. longicornis* woodland.

Pseudophryne guentheri

One collected in April under exfoliated granite in *C. huegeliana* shrubland.

GEKKONIDAE

Crenadactylus ocellatus

Three collected in April in dead *Xanthorrhoea reflexa* in *E. wandoo*/*C. huegeliana* woodland. Eight collected in September: 4 under exfoliated granite, 1 under laterite rock on top of breakaway, 1 in woodland on breakaway slope, 2 under sheet of tin in *E. wandoo*/*C. huegeliana* woodland. The specimen from under laterite rock had a muscid fly in its stomach. One from under exfoliated granite had

several *Notoligotoma* web-spinners, some beetle elytra and a moth, possibly Noctuidae, in its stomach. Ross (1970) considers that this species of *Notoligotoma* is widespread in arid areas, living on the undersurface of exfoliated granite. We believe that *C. ocellatus* mainly feeds under logs, litter and rocks, and is rarely encountered in the open at night. The data on *Notoligotoma* support this hypothesis.

Diplodactylus granariensis

Eight collected in April. One in *E. wandoo/E. astringens* woodland, 1 at base of breakaway in *E. wandoo/E. astringens* woodland, 6 along breakaway slope in *E. wandoo/E. astringens* woodland. Seven collected in September in *E. astringens/E. longicornis* woodland on breakaway slope. Three April animals were juvenile, SVL (snout-vent length) 27-32 mm compared to adult SVL 48-54 mm. Three September females (SVL 52-54) had ovarian follicles beginning to enlarge and 1 September male (SVL 50) had enlarged testes 6.5 mm long. One September female had a lepidopteran caterpillar in its stomach.

Gehyra variegata

Four collected in April under exfoliated granite. One was juvenile, SVL 27 compared to adults SVL 45-51. Six collected in September under exfoliated granite. One September male (SVL 50) had enlarged testes 7 mm long. Two September specimens were juvenile, SVL 31 and 39, compared to adults SVL 50-52.

Phyllurus milii

Three collected in April: 1 under slab of granite, 1 on breakaway in *E. wandoo/E. astringens* woodland, and 1 in *E. wandoo/E. salubris* woodland. Six collected in September under slabs of granite. Four September males (SVL 83-85) had enlarged testes 8-9 mm long. One September specimen was juvenile (SVL 43).

PYGOPODIDAE

Delma fraseri

Four collected in April: 1 at base of dead *Xanthorrhoea reflexa*, 1 under sheet of tin in *C. huegeliana/E. wandoo* woodland, and 2 in abandoned stick-ant nest on sand in *Casuarina* shrubland. Eight collected in September: 7 under exfoliated granite lying on soil, and 1 under sheet of tin in *C. huegeliana/E. wandoo* woodland.

AGAMIDAE

Amphibolurus minor

A juvenile collected in April at night on small bush in *E. wandoo/C. huegeliana* woodland.

Amphibolurus ornatus

Two collected in February, 3 in April and 4 in September. Granite outcrops, under exfoliated granite. One February specimen was a tiny juvenile and 2 April specimens were juvenile. The stomachs of 2 September specimens were crammed with flowers of *Borya nitida*.

SCINCIDAE

Cryptoblepharus plagiocephalus

One collected in April under sheet of tin in *E. wandoo/C. huegeliana* woodland; 4 collected in September: two under sheet of tin in *E. wandoo/C. huegeliana* woodland, 1 in dead *Xanthorrhoea reflexa* in *E. wandoo/C. huegeliana* woodland and 1 among litter in *E. astringens/E. longicornis* woodland. Three September males (SVL 38-42) had enlarged testes 4.5-5.5 mm long.

Egernia multiscutata bos.

Six collected in April and 5 in September. Four were dug out of burrows or caught in Elliott traps in heath on white sand, 7 were dug from burrows under exfoliated granite at edges of granite outcrops. One April specimen was juvenile (SVL 41), 2 September specimens were juvenile (SVL 42, 45). Two September males (SVL 77,85) had enlarged testes 7-9 mm long. A September female (SVL 83) had small ovarian follicles.

Lerista distinguenda

Four collected in April, in and under logs in *E. wandoo/C. huegeliana* woodland. Eight collected in September: 7 in stick-nest ant nests, and 1 under sheet of tin in *E. wandoo/C. huegeliana* woodland. Two juveniles (SVL 24) were collected, 1 in April and 1 in September. Two males (SVL 37,38) collected in April had fairly large testes, 3.5-4 mm long. Five males (SVL 37-41) collected in September also had fairly large testes, ca 3.5 mm long.

Menetia greyii

Four collected in September, 2 under sheet of tin in *E. wandoo/C. huegeliana* woodland and 2 under exfoliated granite resting on soil base.

Morethia obscura

Two collected in April under litter in *C. huegeliana* woodland. Two collected in September under sheet of tin in *E. wandoo/C. huegeliana* woodland. Juvenile (SVL 24) collected in April, juvenile (SVL 30) collected in September. Male (SVL 45) collected in September had enlarged testes, 6 mm long.

Sphenomorphus richardsonii

One collected in September under exfoliated granite.

Tiliqua rugosa

Four were sighted in April, in woodland and heath.

VARANIDAE

Varanus tristis

One collected in September under exfoliated granite.

TYPHLOPIDAE

Typhlina australis

Four collected in April, 1 in stick-nest ant nest in heath and 3 juveniles under laterite rock in *E. astringens* woodland. Eleven collected in September, 8 in stick-nest ant nest, 1 under exfoliated granite, and 1 under sheet of tin in woodland.

ELAPIDAE

Denisonia gouldii

One collected in April in abandoned ant nest. Three collected in September under exfoliated granite.

Pseudechis australis

An adult collected among granite boulders in April and September.

DISCUSSION

Four species of frogs and 18 reptiles were collected on Yornaning Nature Reserve. This is fewer than seven frogs and 23 reptiles at Dongolocking Nature Reserve (Chapman & Dell, 1978). (Dongolocking is the only other reserve that we have examined on the southwestern edge of the wheatbelt.) This is not unexpected in view of the fact that Dongolocking is four times as big as Yornaning and its soil and vegetation associations are much more diverse (Muir, 1978).

All species collected in Yornaning Nature Reserve are within their known range. *Sphenomorphus richardsonii* is widespread in the wheatbelt but is largely confined to hilly or rocky country and is commonly found under exfoliated granite (Storr, 1967). Storr lists several specimens in the vicinity of Boyagin Rock, Pingelly, Wickopin and Narrogin, localities which are within 40 km of Yornaning. During our wheatbelt survey we have not collected this species on any other reserve. Most reserves we have examined lack large expanses of granite or other rocks, and do not provide areas of seasonal excess moisture which *S. richardsonii* seems to need.

Varanus tristis also has not been collected by us on other wheatbelt reserves. This secretive animal is widespread and lives in hollow trees and among rocks, but is difficult to collect. There are specimens in the Western Australian Museum from 16 localities in the wheatbelt; our specimen is the southernmost. Only 9 specimens have been collected in the wheatbelt since 1935, whereas 6 were collected in the preceding 10 years. Possibly it has declined severely with clearing of woodland in the wheatbelt.

No breeding was detected for any species collected in Yornaning Nature Reserve. Chapman & Dell (*op. cit*) consider that October is the earliest month in which gravid reptiles are recorded in the wheatbelt. Several species at Yornaning in September had enlarged testes, indicating they were approaching breeding. Several species had juveniles in April and September and *Amphibolurus ornatus* had juveniles in February.

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