

# HONEY POSSUM.

A PROTECTED MAMMAL AT HOME IN OUR WOODLAND RESERVE.



Honey possums (*Tarsipes rostratus*) are sometimes referred to as 'noolbengers'. They are in fact only distantly related to possums. The honey possum is the sole species in the family Tarsipedilae.

## SIZE AND HABITAT.

Honey possums are mouse-sized and live in the open woodlands and shrublands of south-west Australia. Males have exclusive home ranges of around a hectare while females have smaller ranges of about 100m<sup>2</sup>.

## FEEDING HABITS.

Honey possums are the only non-flying mammals whose diets consists solely of the nectar and pollen found in flowers.

## REPRODUCTION.

Mating season occurs throughout the year. Newborn honey possums weigh only two to six

milligrams and are nursed in the mother's pouch. Honey possums rarely have more than three offspring. By six months, they reach full maturity and head out on their own. The mother gives birth up to three litters per year.

## BEHAVIOUR.

Honey possums sleep during the day and come out to feed at dusk. In periods of cold weather, honey possums enter 'torpor', a type of dormancy and may gather together for warmth.

## THREATS TO SURVIVAL.

The decrease in suitable native foliage, due to urban development, may pose a threat to their population in the future.

