



Deep Creek, Torquay, fauna survey 9-12 April 2015

All trapping is carried out in accordance with the conditions on our DEPI permit 10006519 and WSIAEC permit 27.12

GPS (E1-20) 55 266669E, 5755092N alt 23m

GPS (E21-40) 55 265744E, 5755483N alt 40m

Location

Deep Creek is the sharp depression at the northern edge of Torquay. It is central to a narrow strip of public land managed by the Surf Coast Shire, that extends from the Surf Coast Highway to the ocean beach. Walking paths have been constructed along the top of the banks beside the creek.

Weather

Mainly fine and warm.

Elliott traps

Forty small Elliott traps were set over three nights.

E1-20 were near the eastern (ocean) end of the reserve, mainly under Drooping Sheoaks and Austral Grasstrees where there was a ground cover of sword-sedge, tussock grasses and saltbush. Most were between the walking path and the top of the creek-bank, but three were in a gully running off the main creek.

E21-40 were set in two transects at the western (highway) end of the reserve where there is a canopy of Yellow Gums (subsp *bellarinensis*) and Golden Wattle. The ground cover includes sword-sedge, tussock grasses and various small shrubs.

Results

10/04/15 E23 Brown Rat *Rattus norvegicus* not weighed

E39 House Mouse *Mus musculus* not weighed

E40 Brown Rat wt. 201g

11/04/15 E1 Brown Rat wt. 124g, head/body length 180mm, tail 240mm

E35 Brown Rat wt. 220g, head/body length 180mm, tail 230mm

E38 House Mouse wt. 13g

12/04/15 E37 Brown Rat, male, wt. 204g

Harp traps, funnels, cameras

Not used in this survey.

Comments

Although the vegetation in the reserve carries a wide range of exotic plants and weeds, there are some excellent sections where the indigenous flora remains in good condition. This is particularly so in the western end closest to the highway.

The walking paths are well used by locals dog-walking, jogging and casually walking.

Birdlife is quite diverse although most species noted are those that use the mid- to upper-canopy levels of the vegetation, and few were seen in the lower levels.

Only two individual reptiles – both Garden Skinks – were seen although the habitat would seem to be suited to Tree Dragons (Jacky Lizards) and ground-dwelling lizards. Perhaps the weather was too cool to encourage sun-basking.

Only two mammal species were caught and there were European Rabbit and Red Fox scats noted. All of these are exotics species.

Some Short-beaked Echidna diggings were noted, and a drey of a Common Ringtail Possum seen.

Some research elsewhere has shown that dog-walking, even if this is on-lead, has a marked adverse impact on birds, and presumably on terrestrial mammals and reptiles, so this may be the case here.

Birds	
Spotted Dove	Red Wattlebird
Gang-gang Cockatoo	New Holland Honeyeater
Galah	Golden Whistler
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Grey Shrike-thrush
Rainbow Lorikeet	Grey Butcherbird
Musk Lorikeet	Australian Magpie
Crimson Rosella	Pied Currawong
Eastern Rosella	Grey Fantail
Superb Fairy-wren	Little Raven
White-browed Scrubwren	Magpie-lark
Striated Thornbill	Silvereye
Brown Thornbill	Welcome Swallow
Spotted Pardalote	Common Blackbird
Eastern Spinebill	Common Starling
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	
White-eared Honeyeater	

Mammals	
Short-beaked Echidna	Diggings noted.
Common Ringtail Possum	Drey noted.
House Mouse	Two trapped.
Brown Rat	Five trapped.
Red Fox	Scat seen.
European Rabbit	Diggings and scats found.

Herps	
Garden Skink	Two seen, including one tiny specimen.

Other fauna	
Trapdoor spider (possibly Stanwellia sp)	A female that appeared to be paralysed, possibly by a wasp, found on the path.
Leaf-curling Spider	Many in the undergrowth.
Green Praying Mantis	An ootheca found.
Magpie (Senecio) Moth	A male seen.
Yellow Admiral Butterfly	Several apparently feeding on sap oozing from abrasions on the branches of a Sweet Bursaria. Another was caught in a spider web.
Meadow Argus Butterfly	One seen.
Common Brown Butterfly	Several feeding alongside the Yellow Admirals, others seen. All were females.
Cabbage White Butterfly	A few seen.

Reference

Museum Victoria. 2006. *Melbourne's Wildlife: A Field Guide to the Fauna of Greater Melbourne*. CSIRO Publishing. Melbourne

Thanks

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