

NATIVE FAUNA OF THE GREATER BLUE MOUNTAINS WORLD HERITAGE AREA



REPTILES

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Cover illustration of Eastern Water Dragon by Kate Smith katesmithart@gmail.com

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Introduction

The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area comprises eight reserves: Blue Mountains, Gardens of Stone, Kanangra-Boyd, Nattai, Thirlmere Lakes, Wollemi and Yengo National Parks, and Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve. The area was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2000 because its natural values, including the diversity of its fauna, were considered to be outstanding at international level.

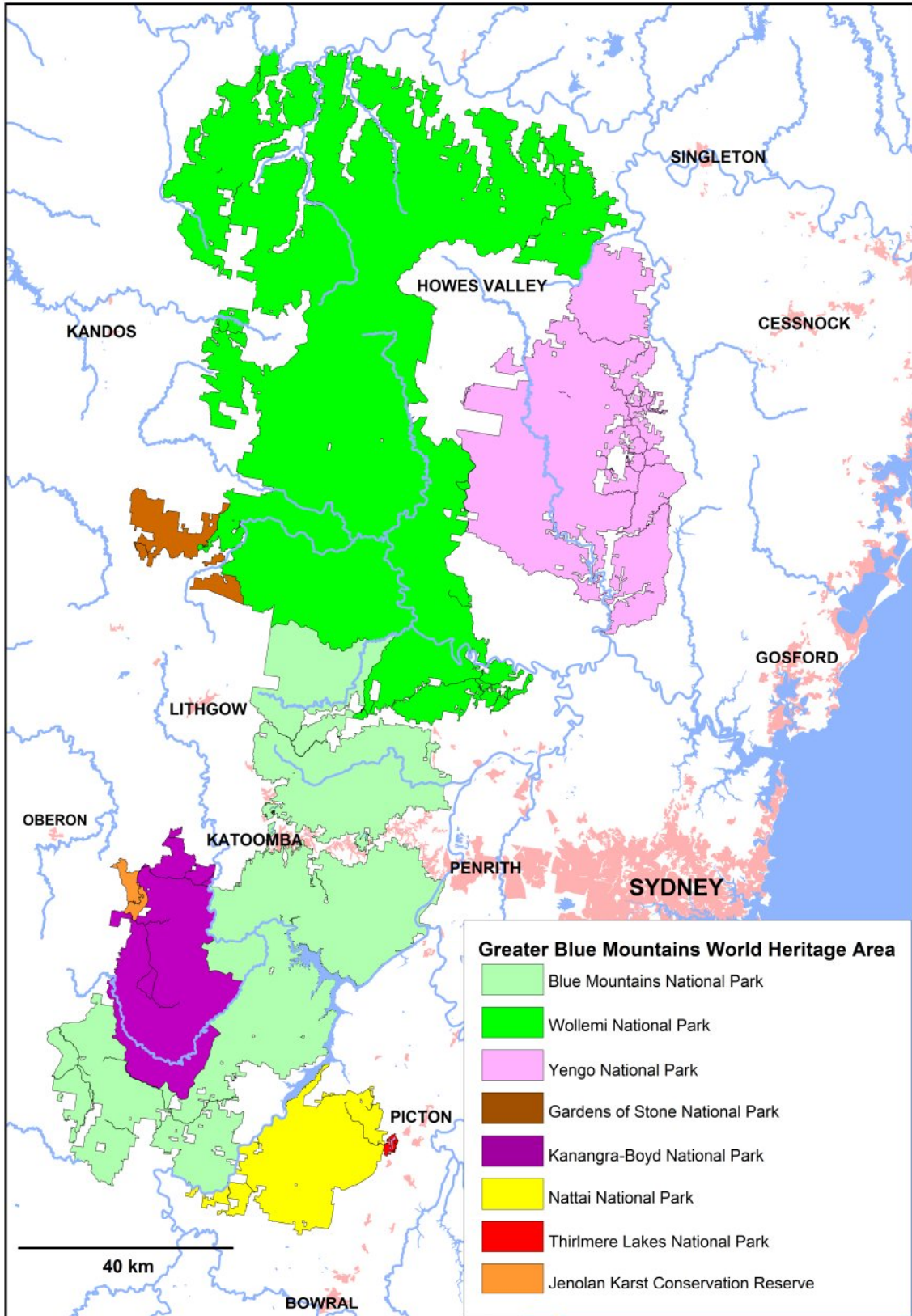
In 1998, when the nomination of the Greater Blue Mountains Area for inscription on the World Heritage List was prepared for the Australian Government, it was well known that the area provided habitat for a wide variety of mammals, birds, reptiles and frogs. However, details of the vertebrate fauna were sketchy. The nomination indicated that about 400 native terrestrial vertebrate fauna species had been recorded in the area, including 52 mammal, 265 bird, 63 reptile and more than 30 frog species.

Over the last few years, in an attempt to gain a clearer understanding of the vertebrate fauna, we have prepared four annotated checklists, one each for the native mammals, birds, reptiles and frogs in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. The four checklists document the species that we consider to have been reliably recorded in each of the eight constituent reserves since the time of European settlement. Details of their conservation status at national and state level, and their habitat, distribution and relative abundance in the World Heritage Area are provided for each species.

The checklists indicate that at least 432 native terrestrial vertebrate fauna species have been recorded in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. This includes 74 reptile species, four of which are threatened species, a distinct increase in the number of reptile species known to occur in the area since its nomination for the World Heritage List. One species, the Blue Mountains Swamp Skink *Eulamprus leuraensis*, is restricted entirely to the World Heritage Area and adjacent lands.

There are still many gaps in our knowledge of the fauna of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Updating the checklists is an on-going process. If you have additional records or other information, your feedback would be very welcome.

Judy and Peter Smith



Native reptile species recorded in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area

Status in NSW and Commonwealth legislation: E = endangered, V = vulnerable

GBMWA reserves: BMNP = Blue Mountains National Park, GOSNP = Gardens of Stone National Park, JKCR = Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve, KBNP = Kanangra-Boyd National Park, NNP = Nattai National Park, TLNP = Thirlmere Lakes National Park, WNP = Wollemi National Park, YNP = Yengo National Park

Species nomenclature follows Cogger (2014). 'Recent' records are 2000 or later, otherwise the date of the last record is specified.

Common name	Scientific name	Family	Status		Records in Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area reserves							
			NSW	Aus	BMNP	GOSNP	JKCR	KBNP	NNP	TLNP	WNP	YNP
Eastern Snake-necked Turtle	<i>Chelodina longicollis</i>	Chelidae			recent	recent	recent		recent	recent	recent	recent
Jacky Lizard	<i>Amphibolurus muricatus</i>	Agamidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Nobbi	<i>Diporiphora nobbi</i>	Agamidae									recent	
Eastern Water Dragon	<i>Intellagama lesueurii lesueurii</i>	Agamidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent		recent	recent
Bearded Dragon	<i>Pogona barbata</i>	Agamidae			recent	recent					recent	recent
Mountain Dragon	<i>Rankinia diemensis</i>	Agamidae			recent		recent	recent	recent		recent	recent
Southern Leaf-tailed Gecko	<i>Phyllurus platurus</i>	Carphodactylidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Thick-tailed Gecko	<i>Underwoodisaurus milii</i>	Carphodactylidae			recent	recent			recent		recent	recent
Lesueur's Velvet Gecko	<i>Amalosia lesueurii</i>	Diplodactylidae			recent	recent		recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Wood Gecko	<i>Diplodactylus vittatus</i>	Diplodactylidae			recent	recent				1954	recent	recent
Robust Velvet Gecko	<i>Nebulifera robusta</i>	Diplodactylidae									recent	recent
Leaden Delma	<i>Delma plebeia</i>	Pygopodidae									recent	recent
Burton's Snake-lizard	<i>Lialis burtonis</i>	Pygopodidae			recent	recent					recent	recent
Common Scaly-foot	<i>Pygopus lepidopodus</i>	Pygopodidae			recent	recent					recent	recent
Eastern Three-lined Skink	<i>Acritoscincus duperreyi</i>	Scincidae			recent			recent				
Red-throated Skink	<i>Acritoscincus platynotus</i>	Scincidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Two-clawed Worm-skink	<i>Anomalopus leuckartii</i>	Scincidae									recent	
Punctate Worm-skink	<i>Anomalopus swansoni</i>	Scincidae									recent	recent
Southern Forest Cool-skink	<i>Carinascincus coventryi</i>	Scincidae			recent		recent	recent				
Southern Rainbow-skink	<i>Carlia tetradactyla</i>	Scincidae				recent					recent	recent
Tussock Rainbow-skink	<i>Carlia vivax</i>	Scincidae									1984	recent
Bar-sided Skink	<i>Concinnia tenuis</i>	Scincidae			recent	recent		recent	recent		recent	recent
Fence Skink	<i>Cryptoblepharus pulcher</i>	Scincidae			recent	recent		recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Robust Ctenotus	<i>Ctenotus robustus</i>	Scincidae			recent	recent			recent	recent	recent	recent
Copper-tailed Skink	<i>Ctenotus taeniolatus</i>	Scincidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent

Common name	Scientific name	Family	Status		Records in Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area reserves								
			NSW	Aus	BMNP	GOSNP	JKCR	KBNP	NNP	TLNP	WNP	YNP	
Pink-tongued Lizard	<i>Cyclodomorphus gerrardii</i>	Scincidae			recent							recent	recent
Mainland She-oak Skink	<i>Cyclodomorphus michaeli</i>	Scincidae			recent				1998				
Cunningham's Skink	<i>Egernia cunninghami</i>	Scincidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent		recent	recent
Black Rock Skink	<i>Egernia saxatilis intermedia</i>	Scincidae			recent		recent	recent	recent			recent	
Tree Skink	<i>Egernia striolata</i>	Scincidae				recent			undated			recent	recent
Yellow-bellied Water Skink	<i>Eulamprus heatwolei</i>	Scincidae			recent		recent	recent	recent			recent	
Blue Mountains Swamp Skink	<i>Eulamprus leuraensis</i>	Scincidae	E	E	recent								
Eastern Water Skink	<i>Eulamprus quoyii</i>	Scincidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	1994	recent	recent
Southern Water Skink	<i>Eulamprus tympanum tympanum</i>	Scincidae			recent		recent	recent	recent			recent	
Eastern Three-toed Earless Skink	<i>Hemiergis talbingoensis davisii</i>	Scincidae			recent	1997	recent	recent	recent	recent		recent	
Dark-flecked Garden Sunskink	<i>Lampropholis delicata</i>	Scincidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Pale-flecked Garden Sunskink	<i>Lampropholis guichenoti</i>	Scincidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	1994	recent	recent
South-eastern Slider	<i>Lerista bougainvillii</i>	Scincidae				recent						recent	recent
Eastern Ranges Rock-skink	<i>Liopholis modesta</i>	Scincidae										recent	
White's Skink	<i>Liopholis whitii</i>	Scincidae			recent	recent	1970	recent	recent	recent		recent	recent
Tree-base Litter-skink	<i>Lygisaurus foliorum</i>	Scincidae			recent	recent		recent	recent			recent	recent
South-eastern Morethia Skink	<i>Morethia boulengeri</i>	Scincidae				recent						recent	recent
Tussock Cool-skink	<i>Pseudemoia entrecasteauxii</i>	Scincidae			recent	1992	recent	recent	recent	1997		recent	
Tussock Skink	<i>Pseudemoia pagenstecheri</i>	Scincidae			recent			1995	recent			recent	
Trunk-climbing Cool-skink	<i>Pseudemoia spenceri</i>	Scincidae			recent		recent	recent					
Three-toed Skink	<i>Saiphos equalis</i>	Scincidae			recent		recent					recent	recent
Weasel Skink	<i>Saproscincus mustelinus</i>	Scincidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	1997		recent	recent
Blotched Blue-tongued Lizard	<i>Tiliqua nigrolutea</i>	Scincidae			recent		recent	recent	recent			recent	
Eastern Blue-tongued Lizard	<i>Tiliqua scincoides scincoides</i>	Scincidae			recent		recent			recent		recent	recent
Gould's Goanna	<i>Varanus gouldii gouldii</i>	Varanidae										recent	recent
Heath Monitor	<i>Varanus rosenbergi</i>	Varanidae	V		recent	recent		recent				recent	recent
Lace Monitor	<i>Varanus varius</i>	Varanidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent		recent	recent
Diamond Python	<i>Morelia spilota spilota</i>	Boidae			recent	recent	undated			recent		recent	recent
Brown Tree Snake	<i>Boiga irregularis</i>	Colubridae			recent							recent	recent
Green Tree Snake	<i>Dendrelaphis punctulatus</i>	Colubridae			recent							recent	recent
Southern Death Adder	<i>Acanthophis antarcticus</i>	Elapidae			recent							recent	recent
Highlands Copperhead	<i>Austrelaps ramsayi</i>	Elapidae			recent			recent	recent			recent	

Common name	Scientific name	Family	Status		Records in Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area reserves							
			NSW	Aus	BMNP	GOSNP	JKCR	KBNP	NNP	TLNP	WNP	YNP
Golden Crowned Snake	<i>Cacophis squamulosus</i>	Elapidae			recent		recent	recent			recent	
Eastern Small-eyed Snake	<i>Cryptophis nigrescens</i>	Elapidae			recent	recent		recent	recent		recent	
Yellow-faced Whipsnake	<i>Demansia psammophis psammophis</i>	Elapidae			recent				recent		recent	recent
White-lipped Snake	<i>Drysdalia coronoides</i>	Elapidae					1964	recent				
Mustard-bellied Snake	<i>Drysdalia rhodogaster</i>	Elapidae			recent		undated	recent		recent	recent	recent
Red-naped Snake	<i>Furina diadema</i>	Elapidae			undated						recent	recent
Marsh Snake	<i>Hemiaspis signata</i>	Elapidae			1998							
Broad-headed Snake	<i>Hoplocephalus bungaroides</i>	Elapidae	E	V	recent	recent			recent		recent	recent
Stephens's Banded Snake	<i>Hoplocephalus stephensii</i>	Elapidae	V								recent	
Tiger Snake	<i>Notechis scutatus scutatus</i>	Elapidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent		recent	recent
Dwyer's Snake	<i>Parasuta spectabilis dwyeri</i>	Elapidae				recent					1997	recent
Red-bellied Black Snake	<i>Pseudechis porphyriacus</i>	Elapidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent	recent
Eastern Brown Snake	<i>Pseudonaja textilis</i>	Elapidae			recent	recent	recent	recent	recent		recent	recent
Eastern Bandy-bandy	<i>Vermicella annulata</i>	Elapidae			recent		recent	1989			recent	recent
Blackish Blind Snake	<i>Ramphotyphlops nigrescens</i>	Typhlopidae			recent	recent			recent	recent	recent	recent
Proximus Blind Snake	<i>Ramphotyphlops proximus</i>	Typhlopidae									1995	
Brown-snouted Blind Snake	<i>Ramphotyphlops wiedii</i>	Typhlopidae									1995	1975

Native Reptile Species Recorded in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area

Species nomenclature follows Cogger (2014). The reserves in which each species has been recorded are listed: Blue Mountains (BM), Gardens of Stone (GOS), Kanangra-Boyd (KB), Nattai (N), Thirlmere Lakes (TL), Wollemi (W) and Yengo (Y) National Parks and Jenolan (J) Karst Conservation Reserve. Unless otherwise indicated, there are recent records from each reserve listed. 'Recent' records are 2000 or later. If there are no recent records for a reserve, the date of the last record is shown. Status refers to threatened species listings under NSW and Commonwealth legislation. Terminology for vegetation types follows Keith (2004).

TURTLES

Family CHELIDAE

Eastern Snake-necked Turtle *Chelodina longicollis*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, N, TL, W, Y

Uncommon resident. Widespread but more frequently encountered at lower elevations. An aquatic species of permanent or semi-permanent waterbodies, including open wetlands and slow-moving rivers and creeks. Found in natural waterbodies such as Abercrombie River (Blue Mountains NP), Nattai River (Nattai NP) and Capertee River (Wollemi NP), and in artificial ones such as Dunns Swamp (Wollemi NP) and scattered small dams. Occasionally seen on roads as it moves between waterbodies.

LIZARDS

Family AGAMIDAE

Jacky Lizard *Amphibolurus muricatus*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common resident. A semi-arboreal dragon lizard that is widespread in dry sclerophyll forest, grassy woodland and heath across the WHA.

Nobbi *Diporiphora nobbi*

Reserves: W

Rare resident at the eastern edge of its range. A semi-arboreal dragon lizard more typical of inland areas. The only WHA records are from shrub/grass dry sclerophyll forest of box and cypress pine on the slopes east of Lee Creek in the north-western corner of Wollemi NP in 2006 (DEC 2007).

Eastern Water Dragon *Intellagama lesueurii lesueurii*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, W, Y

Moderately common, widespread resident. A semi-aquatic, semi-arboreal dragon lizard that is restricted to the vicinity of permanent or semi-permanent waterbodies, including rivers, creeks and open wetlands both natural and artificial.

Bearded Dragon *Pogona barbata*

Reserves: BM, GOS, W, Y

Uncommon resident. Occurs mainly at lower elevations. A semi-arboreal dragon lizard found in grassy woodland and shrub/grass dry sclerophyll forest, less often in shrubby dry sclerophyll forest. Most frequently reported from Wollemi NP, where recent records include the vicinity of Baerami, Hungerford, Martindale and Doyles Creeks and Dunns Swamp.

Mountain Dragon *Rankinia diemensis*

Reserves: BM, J, KB, N, W, Y

Common, widespread resident. A terrestrial dragon lizard typically found in dry sclerophyll forest and heath where there is ground debris such as fallen timber and leaf litter. The most frequently recorded dragon lizard in the WHA.

Family CARPHODACTYLIDAE

Southern Leaf-tailed Gecko *Phyllurus platurus*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common resident. Recorded in every WHA reserve but more frequent at lower elevations. The species is largely restricted to the Sydney Basin. In the WHA, it is at the western limit of its range and approaching both the northern and southern limits. A nocturnal, rock-climbing species found in a range of habitats, even rainforest, wherever there is outcropping rock. Shelters by day in rock crevices and cracks in cliffs, outcrops and overhangs, often around waterfalls. Usually found on sandstone but has also been recorded in limestone caves (The Ballroom) in Jenolan KCR, which is outside the Sydney Basin.

Thick-tailed Gecko *Underwoodisaurus milii*

Reserves: BM, GOS, N, W, Y

Moderately common resident that is widespread at lower elevations. A nocturnal, ground-dwelling species found in a range of habitats, sheltering by day under litter and debris or under bark at the base of trees.

Family DIPLODACTYLIDAE

Lesueur's Velvet Gecko *Amolasia lesueurii*

Reserves: BM, GOS, KB, N, TL, W, Y,

Common resident; the most common gecko in the WHA. Widespread but no records from

Jenolan KCR, and records in Kanangra-Boyd NP are all from below 800 m. At the south-western edge of its distribution. A nocturnal, rock-climbing species that shelters by day in sandstone crevices on rocky ridges, cliffs, pagodas and other outcrops.

Wood Gecko *Diplodactylus vittatus*

Reserves: BM, GOS, TL (1954), W, Y

Uncommon resident. A nocturnal, ground-dwelling species of dry sclerophyll forest, grassy woodland and heath. Shelters during the day under fallen timber and rocks. Appears to be absent from high elevation areas such as Jenolan KCR and Kanangra-Boyd NP. The only records for Thirlmere Lakes NP are specimens at the Australian Museum collected in 1954.

Robust Velvet Gecko *Nebulifera robusta*

Reserves: W, Y

Rare resident. Restricted to the north of the WHA, where it is at the southern edge of its range. A nocturnal arboreal species of dry sclerophyll forest and grassy woodland. Shelters by day in tree hollows and under loose bark of both standing and fallen trees. Recently recorded from the vicinity of Appletree Creek, Cedar Creek Gorge and the trail to Gowie Hut (Wollemi NP), and from the north-east of Yengo NP.

Family PYGOPODIDAE

Leaden Delma *Delma plebeia*

Reserves: W, Y

Rare resident. Restricted to the north of the WHA, where it reaches the southern edge of its range. Inhabits dry sclerophyll forest and grassy woodland. Recently recorded in the Baerami, Doyles Creek and Martindale Valleys (Wollemi NP) and in ironbark grassy woodland in northern Yengo NP.

Burton's Snake-lizard *Lialis burtonis*

Reserves: BM, GOS, W, Y

Rare resident. Found in low vegetation and ground litter in a variety of habitats at lower elevations.

Common Scaly-foot *Pygopus lepidopus*

Reserves: BM, GOS, W, Y

Uncommon resident. Less frequent at higher elevations. Typically found in shrubby dry sclerophyll forest and heath.

Family SCINCIDAE

Eastern Three-lined Skink *Acritoscincus duperreyi*

Reserves: BM, KB

Rare resident at the northern edge of its range. In the WHA, a species of higher elevations, generally above 800 m. Typically found amongst rocks and logs in grassy woodland and dry sclerophyll forest with an open understorey.

Red-throated Skink *Acritoscincus platynotus*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common resident. Widespread, with records from every WHA reserve, but less frequent in the drier northern parts of the WHA. A ground-dwelling skink found in dry sclerophyll forest and heath on sandstone ridges.

Two-clawed Worm-skink *Anomalopus leuckartii*

Reserves: W

Rare resident. Restricted to the north of Wollemi NP, where it is at the southern edge of its range. A burrowing skink more typical of northern NSW. Recent sightings in Wollemi NP have been in shrub/grass dry sclerophyll forest and grassy woodland along major creek flats and lower slopes in the Baerami, Hungerford, Widden, Myrtle and Bylong Valleys (DEC 2005a, 2007).

Punctate Worm-skink *Anomalopus swansoni*

Reserves: W, Y

Uncommon resident. Restricted to the northern half of the WHA, where it is at the southern and western limits of its range. The species has a restricted distribution in the northern Sydney Basin and Hunter Valley. It is a burrowing skink found under rocks in areas with sandy soils. Within the WHA, there have been scattered records from ridges, slopes and small creeklines. Recent localities include Mt Yengo (Yengo NP), and Martindale Range and Baerami Valley (Wollemi NP).

Southern Forest Cool-skink *Carinascincus coventryi*

Reserves: BM, J, KB

Rare resident in the southern half of the WHA, where it is at the northern edge of its range. Prefers high elevations (above 800 m). Typically associated with decaying timber in tableland eucalypt forest and woodland.

Southern Rainbow-skink *Carlia tetradactyla*

Reserves: GOS, W, Y

Rare resident restricted to the northern half of the WHA. A species of the tablelands and western slopes that extends down the Hunter Valley almost to the coast. Typically found in grassy woodland and shrub/grass dry sclerophyll forest, including stands with cypress pine. Recent localities include Mellong Plateau and the Capertee River (Wollemi NP). In the 1980s it was reported to be an uncommon species of grassy woodland, dry sclerophyll forest and farmland in the Coxs River Valley (Smith and Smith 1990), but there are no records from the WHA in this vicinity.

Tussock Rainbow-skink *Carlia vivax*

Reserves: W (1984), Y

Rare resident at the southern edge of its range. Recorded from the northern end of Yengo NP, including records along the Putty Road at the junction of Yengo NP and Wollemi NP (DEC 2005b, Australian Museum specimens). Inhabits dry sclerophyll forest and grassy woodland.

Bar-sided Skink *Concinnia tenuis*

Reserves: BM, GOS, KB, N, W, Y

Uncommon resident. More frequent at lower elevations. In Kanangra-Boyd NP it is found in lower elevation gully systems rather than the higher plateau areas (DEC 2004a). It is an arboreal skink that is typically found in wet sclerophyll forest and rainforest, but also occurs in dry sclerophyll forest and grassy woodland. Shelters in crevices in trees, logs and rock outcrops.

Fence Skink *Cryptoblepharus pulcher*

Reserves: BM, GOS, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common resident. Widespread but more typical of lower elevations and not recorded in Jenolan KCR. An arboreal species that is usually found on ridges and upper slopes, typically sheltering behind bark or in crevices on trees, but also sometimes on rock outcrops. It is often seen on fences or buildings in settled areas around the WHA.

Robust Ctenotus *Ctenotus robustus*

Reserves: BM, GOS, N, TL, W, Y

Uncommon resident. Widespread but absent from the two higher elevation reserves, Jenolan KCR and Kanangra-Boyd NP. Found in a variety of habitats, sheltering in shallow burrows underneath ground debris.

Copper-tailed Skink *Ctenotus taeniolatus*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common resident. Widespread, recorded from every WHA reserve, but more frequent at

lower elevations. Associated with rocky ridges and rock outcrops, sheltering in rock crevices or in small burrows beneath rocks.

Pink-tongued Lizard *Cyclodomorphus gerrardii*

Reserves: BM, W, Y

Rare resident at the southern limit of its range. The southernmost records in Blue Mountains NP are from Blaxland, Linden and Kings Tableland. Typically found in wet sclerophyll forest and rainforest, where it is partly arboreal. Also occurs around houses on the urban fringes of Blue Mountains NP. Considered a moderately common species in the lower Blue Mountains in the 1980s, recorded west to Kedumba Pass (Smith and Smith 1990). There have been fewer records in recent times. This species was a major prey item of a Sooty Owl roosting near Glenbrook Creek in Blue Mountains NP in the early 1980s (Smith and Smith 2014).

Mainland She-oak Skink *Cyclodomorphus michaeli*

Reserves: BM, KB (1998)

Rare resident, recorded from both Blue Mountains NP and Kanangra-Boyd NP, but the only recent record is from Blue Mountains NP at Katoomba in 2017 (per Kalang Morrison-Jones). Also recorded near the WHA at Leura in 2017 (Alan Page). Formerly considered an uncommon resident patchily distributed through the upper Blue Mountains, east to Woodford, living amongst leaf litter and fallen timber in dry sclerophyll forest, grassy woodland and heath (Smith and Smith 1990). In the late 1980s it was regularly encountered on Kings Tableland (Judy Smith).

Cunningham's Skink *Egernia cunninghami*

Reserves: BM, J, GOS, KB, N, W, Y

Moderately common, widespread resident. Lives in colonies on cliffs and rocky outcrops, sheltering in rock crevices. Tends to be more frequent at higher elevations, but also occurs right across to the eastern edge of the WHA.

Black Rock Skink *Egernia saxatilis intermedia*

Reserves: BM, J, KB, W

Moderately common resident at the northern edge of the range of subspecies *intermedia* (subspecies *saxatilis* has a more northern distribution in the Warrumbungle Mountains). Restricted to higher elevations and most common above 800 m. Typically found in rocky areas, occurring in colonies or as individuals. Shelters in crevices in rocks, logs or trees.

Tree Skink *Egernia striolata*

Reserves: GOS, KB (undated), W, Y

Uncommon resident. More typical of inland areas and in the WHA it is at the eastern edge of its range. Found in dry sclerophyll forest and grassy woodland. Typically arboreal, it shelters in tree hollows, behind bark and in fallen timber. Occasionally inhabits rock outcrops, sheltering in the rock crevices. Mainly recorded from the northern half of the WHA, but there is an undated specimen at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History collected by Rick Shine at Kanangra Walls (Kanangra-Boyd NP).

Yellow-bellied Water Skink *Eulamprus heatwolei*

Reserves: BM, J, KB, W

Common resident at mid to high elevations. Found in various habitats, including wet and dry sclerophyll forests, grassy woodland, heath and swamp. Occurs both along streams and on ridges well away from water.

Blue Mountains Swamp Skink *Eulamprus leuraensis*

Status: endangered (NSW and Commonwealth)

Reserves: BM

Rare resident restricted to the Blue Mountains townships plateau and Newnes Plateau. There are about 60 known locations for the species, all of which are in or near Blue Mountains NP (Gorissen *et al.* 2017). The species is confined to mid to high elevation sedge and shrub swamps (560-1140 m; Gorissen *et al.* 2018). The swamps are a naturally fragmented habitat and genetic studies have shown low rates of gene flow between swamps, indicating that the skinks seldom move from one swamp to another (Dubey and Shine 2010). The Newnes Plateau populations are genetically distinct from those around the Blue Mountains townships.

Eastern Water Skink *Eulamprus quoyii*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL (1994), W, Y

Common, widespread resident. Recorded from every WHA reserve, but no records from Thirlmere Lakes NP since 1994. Common along most permanent and semi-permanent streams at low to mid elevations. Less common along streams at high elevations.

Southern Water Skink *Eulamprus tympanum tympanum*

Reserves: BM, J, KB, W

Rare resident. Found mostly at higher elevations (over 800 m) in the southern half of the WHA. Typically associated with small creeks in grassy woodland and shrub/grass dry sclerophyll forest in montane and sub-alpine environments such as on Boyd Plateau (Kanangra-Boyd NP). Recent records from north-western Wollemi NP (above 600 m in the vicinity of the headwaters of Blackwater Creek and east of Mt Coricudgy) appear to come from an isolated population, with the closest records 70 km to the south near Blackheath and 80 km to the north at Barrington Tops NP (DEC 2007).

Eastern Three-toed Earless Skink *Hemiergus talbingoensis davisii*

Reserves: BM, GOS (1997), J, KB, N, W

Rare resident. Recorded in low numbers at scattered locations, generally at higher elevations. At eastern edge of the species range and approaching the southern edge of the range of subspecies *davisii*. There are two subspecies in NSW: *davisii* (northern) and *talbingoensis* (southern). Only subspecies *davisii* has definitely been recorded in the WHA (Australian Museum specimens), but most WHA records do not identify subspecies and it is possible that subspecies *talbingoensis* is also present. A burrowing species found in both wet and dry sclerophyll forest. Recent localities include the vicinity of Mt Werong and Parliament Hill (Blue Mountains NP); and Martindale Range (Wollemi NP). There are no records from Gardens of Stone NP since 1997.

Dark-flecked Garden Sunskink *Lampropholis delicata*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common, widespread resident. Recorded from every WHA reserve, but appears to be less frequent at very high elevations and in the dry northern and north-western parts of Wollemi NP. Found in ground litter and fallen timber in a wide range of habitats. It is a common species in gardens in settled area around the WHA.

Pale-flecked Garden Sunskink *Lampropholis guichenoti*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL (1994), W, Y

Common, widespread resident. Recorded from every WHA reserve, but appears to be less frequent in the dry northern and north-western parts of Wollemi NP. No records from Thirlmere Lakes NP since 1994, but this is probably due to a lack of survey effort rather than to the species being scarce. Like the previous species, it is found in ground litter and fallen timber in a wide range of habitats, and is a common species in gardens in settled areas around the WHA.

South-eastern Slider *Lerista bougainvillii*

Reserves: GOS, W, Y

Uncommon resident restricted to the northern half of the WHA. The species is more typical of drier inland areas and is at the eastern edge of its range. A burrowing species found under rocks, logs and leaf-litter in dry sclerophyll forest and heath on drier northern and western aspects on ridges, slopes and escarpments. Recent localities include the vicinity of Culoul Range, Grassy Hill Track, Angorawa Creek and Mount Nielson (Wollemi NP).

Eastern Ranges Rock-skink *Liopholis modesta*

Reserves: W

Rare resident. Found at the northern end of the WHA, where it is at the southern edge of its range. Typically found around rocks and fallen timber in dry sclerophyll forest. Only known

from two recent records from the far north-east of Wollemi NP: Appletree Creek vicinity and Kings Creek vicinity (DEC 2005a).

White's Skink *Liopholis whitii*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J (1970), KB, N, W, Y

Common resident. Widespread but more frequent at lower elevations. The only record for Jenolan KCR is a 1970 Northern Territory Museum specimen. Typically found in dry sclerophyll forest and heath on rocky ridges and plateaus, sheltering under rocks or in rock crevices, sometimes in fallen timber.

Tree-base Litter-skink *Lygisaurus foliorum*

Reserves: BM, GOS, KB, N, W, Y

Moderately common resident. A species of low to mid elevations that is at the southern edge of its range. Most frequent in dry sclerophyll forest and grassy woodland at the dry northern end of Wollemi and Yengo NPs. Typically found in leaf litter at the base of trees and beside logs.

South-eastern Morethia Skink *Morethia boulengeri*

Reserves: GOS, W, Y

Rare resident. More typical of inland areas. Restricted to the drier northern and north-western parts of the WHA, where it reaches the eastern edge of its range. Found in leaf litter and fallen timber in dry sclerophyll forest, grassy woodland and heath.

Tussock Cool-skink *Pseudemoia entrecastreauxii*

Reserves: BM, GOS (1992), J, KB, N (1997), W

Common resident at eastern edge of its range. Prefers higher elevations. In Kanangra-Boyd NP it is the most common skink above 800 m. Found in leaf litter and fallen timber in various habitats.

Tussock Skink *Pseudemoia pagenstecheri*

Reserves: BM, J (1995), KB, W

Rare resident at the eastern edge of its range and also approaching the western edge. Found at higher elevations in swamps, heath and rank grassland. Many fewer BioNet records in the WHA than the Tussock Cool-skink, although Griffiths (2006) states that the Tussock Skink is the more common of the two species in the Sydney Basin. Last recorded at Jenolan KCR in 1995 (Australian Museum specimen).

Trunk-climbing Cool-skink *Pseudemoia spenceri*

Reserves: BM, J, KB

Moderately common resident in high elevation areas above 800 m. At northern edge of its range. Found in grassy woodland, shrub/grass dry sclerophyll forest and grassy wet sclerophyll forest in montane and sub-alpine environments.

Tree-toed Skink *Saiphos equalis*

Reserves: BM, J, W, Y

Moderately common resident at western edge of its range. Recorded at both high and low elevations. A burrowing species found under rocks, logs and leaf litter in dry and wet sclerophyll forests, rainforest and heath.

Weasel Skink *Saproscincus mustelinus*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N (1997), W, Y

Moderately common, widespread resident at the western edge of its range. Found in leaf litter and ground debris in dry and wet sclerophyll forests, rainforest and heath. Also often found in gardens in settled areas around the WHA.

Blotched Blue-tongued Lizard *Tiliqua nigrolutea*

Reserves: BM, J, KB, W

Moderately common resident at the northern edge of its range. The population in and around the WHA is disjunct from the population in southern NSW. Found in dry and wet sclerophyll forests and grassy woodland at higher elevations. Often encountered basking on tracks.

Eastern Blue-tongued Lizard *Tiliqua scincoides scincoides*

Reserves: BM, J, N, W, Y

Uncommon resident that is patchily distributed across the WHA but is more frequent at lower elevations. Occurs in dry and wet sclerophyll forests, grassy woodland, heath and grassland. Also frequents houses and gardens on the urban fringe of Blue Mountains NP. Shelters in hollow logs and under ground debris. Well known for its open-mouthed threat display, poking out its bright blue tongue.

Family VARANIDAE

Gould's Goanna *Varanus gouldii gouldii*

Reserves: W, Y

Rare resident. Restricted to the drier, more northerly parts of the WHA, where it is at the eastern edge of its range. Individuals of this ground-dwelling species have a large home

range that typically encompasses a variety of habitats. Regularly encountered along the eastern half of the Glen Gallic Trail (Wollemi NP) in October 2004 (DEC 2005a).

Heath Monitor *Varanus rosenbergi*

Status: vulnerable (NSW)

Reserves: BM, GOS, KB, W, Y

Rare resident that occurs in low numbers at scattered locations in the WHA. Reaches the northern limit of its range at the southern escarpment of the Hunter Valley. Typically found in shrubby dry sclerophyll forest on sandstone ridges and plateaus. A mostly ground-dwelling species that shelters in burrows which it digs itself, or in hollow logs or rock crevices. It lays its eggs in termite mounds. Recent localities include: Scotts Main Range (Blue Mountains NP); between Mount Harvey and Hughes Defile (Gardens of Stone NP); Grassy Hill Track, Gowee Trail and Old Coach Road (Wollemi NP); and Big Yengo area (Yengo NP).

Lace Monitor *Varanus varius*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, W, Y

Common resident. Widespread but more frequent at lower elevations. More arboreal than the other goannas in the WHA. Individuals range widely and forage both on the ground and in trees. Found in dry and wet sclerophyll forests and rainforest. Generally more frequent in gullies than on ridges. Usually lays its eggs in a hole dug into a termite mound. Some individuals of the 'Bell's form' of this species – a colour form characterised by broad black and pale yellow banding that is more typical of drier areas further west - have recently been recorded in the Burratorang Valley (Nattai NP; DEC 2004b) and near Bylong River and Lee Creek (Wollemi NP; DEC 2007).

SNAKES

Family BOIDAE

Diamond Python *Morelia spilota spilota*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J (undated), N, W, Y

Moderately common resident at the western edge of the range of subspecies *spilota*. Widespread in the WHA but mainly occurs at lower elevations. Favours wet sclerophyll forest and rainforest in gullies, but may also be found in dry sclerophyll forest on ridges. Often climbs into shrubs and trees. The only record for Jenolan KCR is an old, undated Australian Museum specimen.

Family COLUBRIDAE

Brown Tree Snake *Boiga irregularis*

Reserves: BM, W, Y

Rare resident at southern limit of its distribution. Typically found in or near wet sclerophyll forest and rainforest. Nocturnal and generally arboreal, but also frequently forages on the ground. Recent records are mainly from the north of the WHA (for example, vicinity of Putty Road and Settler's Road in Yengo NP). Also recorded recently on two occasions (both juveniles) on the urban fringe of Blue Mountains NP at Blaxland (Peter and Judy Smith).

Green Tree Snake *Dendrelaphis punctulatus*

Reserves: BM, W, Y

Uncommon resident at southern limit of its distribution. More common at lower elevations, but has been recorded as high up as Blackheath. A diurnal, arboreal species typically found in or near wet sclerophyll forest and rainforest, often near water. Also frequents houses and gardens on the urban fringe of Blue Mountains NP.

Family ELAPIDAE

Southern Death Adder *Acanthophis antarcticus*

Reserves: BM, W, Y

Uncommon resident. Mainly found at lower elevations but extends into the upper Blue Mountains along the Grose Valley. A nocturnal, ground-dwelling, cryptic species of dry and wet sclerophyll forests and heath. Hides in leaf litter and attracts prey by sinuously wriggling its tail. Considered common in the Coxs River Valley in the early 1900s (Smith and Smith 1990) but no recent records from there. Baerami and Wilpen Valleys are considered a stronghold for the species in Wollemi NP (DEC 2005a). Recorded at Glenbrook Creek in Blue Mountains NP in 2012 (Blue Mountains Bird Observers Newsletters). A highly venomous species with a potentially fatal bite.

Highlands Copperhead *Austrelaps ramsayi*

Reserves: BM, J, KB, W

Moderately common resident. Restricted to higher elevations, most frequent above 800 m. Found in and around swamps and in rank vegetation fringing open wetlands, often forming large colonies. A highly venomous species with a potentially fatal bite.

Golden Crowned Snake *Cacophis squamulosus*

Reserves: BM, J, KB, W

Rare resident at western edge of its range. Few records of this secretive, nocturnal snake. Typically found in wet sclerophyll forest and rainforest. A recent record from Widden Valley in north-western Wollemi NP in an unusual habitat (a dry box-ironbark-cypress pine slope) appears to be an outlying population, with the nearest records about 70 km to the north-east near Mount Royal NP and 70 km to the south-east near Putty State Forest (DEC 2007).

Eastern Small-eyed Snake *Cryptophis nigrescens*

Reserves: BM, GOS, KB, N, W

Uncommon resident. Recorded from scattered locations at both low and high elevations in dry and wet sclerophyll forests, rainforest and heath on Hawkesbury and Narrabeen sandstones and basalt caps. Secretive and nocturnal, small groups shelter by day under rocks or logs, in rock crevices or under ground litter. Although only a small snake growing to about 50 cm, sometimes longer, it is a highly venomous species with a potentially fatal bite.

Yellow-faced Whipsnake *Demansia psammophis psammophis*

Reserves: BM, N, W, Y

Uncommon resident. Recorded at scattered locations, mainly at lower elevations. A diurnal, ground-dwelling snake found mainly in dry sclerophyll forest and heath.

White-lipped Snake *Drysdalia coronoides*

Reserves: J (1964), KB

Rare resident that is restricted to higher elevations. The main population of the species reaches its northern limit in the WHA (a smaller disjunct population occurs further north in the higher parts of the Northern Tablelands). Found in dry sclerophyll forest and grassy woodland. Mainly nocturnal, sheltering by day under rocks, logs or ground litter. The only recent records are from Kanangra-Boyd NP, where it has been recorded in mallee heath on Kanangra Tops (DEC 2004a). Recorded at Jenolan KCR in 1964 (Northern Territory Museum specimen).

Mustard-bellied Snake *Drysdalia rhodogaster*

Reserves: BM, J (undated), KB, TL, W, Y

Uncommon resident. Widespread but appears to be most common in the north-east of Blue Mountains NP (DECC 2008a). Reaches its northern and western limits in the WHA. A ground-dwelling, largely nocturnal snake found in a range of habitats, including rocky heath, dry sclerophyll forest and swamps. Shelters in ground debris or under logs. The only record for Jenolan KCR is an old, undated specimen at the Australian Museum.

Red-naped Snake *Furina diadema*

Reserves: BM (undated), W, Y

Rare resident that has been recorded mainly from the northern half of the WHA. The only record for Blue Mountains NP is an old, undated specimen in the Australian Museum collected at Faulconbridge. A nocturnal snake found in dry sclerophyll forest, grassy woodland and heath, where it shelters by day amongst rocks and fallen timber.

Marsh Snake *Hemiaspis signata*

Reserves: BM (1998).

Rare resident at the western edge of its range. A diurnal snake typically found in swamps and in low-lying marshy areas adjacent to watercourses and open wetlands, but also sometimes on dry, rocky ridges. Recorded from two sites in the Kedumba Valley in Blue Mountains NP in 1998 (BioNet Atlas records; DECC 2007c). No other records within the WHA, but Smith and Smith (1990) noted its occurrence in the Kurrajong Hills area east of Blue Mountains NP, where it was found in grassy ironbark woodland, often near water.

Broad-headed Snake *Hoplocephalus bungaroides*

Status: endangered (NSW); vulnerable (Commonwealth)

Reserves: BM, GOS, N, W, Y

Uncommon resident that is endemic to the Sydney Basin. Reaches the northern edge of its range in Wollemi NP and the western edge in Gardens of Stone NP. Occurs in isolated pockets, mainly on rocky Narrabeen and Hawksebury sandstone ridgetops and escarpments. A nocturnal snake that shelters during the day in rock crevices (often under large slabs of rock lying on rock outcrops), and also sometimes in tree hollows, especially in winter. Recent localities include: Sunnyside portion (Gardens of Stone NP); vicinity of the Glow Worm Tunnel, Angorawa Track and Colo River (Wollemi NP); Linden Ridge, Tabaraga Ridge Firetrail and Deep Pass Trail (Blue Mountains NP); Howes Swamp and Mogo Creek (Yengo NP); and Wattle Ridge Road (Nattai NP). Although only a small snake growing to about 65 cm, sometimes longer, it is a highly venomous species with a potentially fatal bite.

Stephens's Banded Snake *Hoplocephalus stephensii*

Status: vulnerable (NSW)

Reserves: W

Rare resident at the southern and western edges of its range. Recorded at Dunns Swamp (Wollemi NP) in 2003 and 2010. A nocturnal and largely arboreal snake that is typically found in rainforest and wet sclerophyll forest. Its range encompasses the coastal districts of south-east Queensland and north-east NSW, extending onto the tablelands in some locations. Although only a small snake growing to an average length of 75 cm, it is a highly venomous species with a potentially fatal bite.

Tiger Snake *Notechis scutatus scutatus*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, W, Y

Uncommon resident, occurring mainly at mid to high elevations. A diurnal snake that may be found in various habitats, including swamps, grassland, dry and wet sclerophyll forests and rainforest. Recent localities include Boyd Plateau (Kanangra-Boyd NP); Settlers Road and Boggy Swamp Creek (Yengo NP); and Nattai Tablelands (Nattai NP). Said to be common in the Coxs River Valley in the early 1900s, but now uncommon there (Smith and Smith 1990). A highly venomous species with a potentially fatal bite.

Dwyer's Snake *Parasuta spectabilis dwyeri*

Reserves: GOS, W (1997), Y

Rare resident. A species typical of drier inland areas, only recorded in the northern half of the WHA, where it is at the eastern edge of its range. A nocturnal snake of dry sclerophyll forest and heath in open, rocky sites. Recent localities include the vicinity of Halfway Hollow (Gardens of Stone NP); Old Bulga Road and Howes Valley (Yengo NP).

Red-bellied Black Snake *Pseudechis porphyriacus*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, TL, W, Y

Common, widespread resident, recorded from every WHA reserve. The most common snake in the WHA. A diurnal species usually found in the vicinity of permanent and semi-permanent watercourses, open wetlands, ponds and swamps, although it sometimes ranges well away from these habitats. A highly venomous species with a potentially fatal bite.

Eastern Brown Snake *Pseudonaja textilis*

Reserves: BM, GOS, J, KB, N, W, Y

Moderately common resident. A diurnal species that is widely but patchily distributed in grassy woodland and dry sclerophyll forest. Often encountered in farmland around the WHA, but less often within the WHA itself. A highly venomous species with a potentially fatal bite.

Eastern Bandy-bandy *Vermicella annulata*

Reserves: BM, J, KB (1989), W, Y

Rare resident. A nocturnal burrowing species found in a variety of habitats. A cryptic species that may be more common than the few records suggest. The only record for Kanangra-Boyd NP is one found dead in 1989 (BioNet Atlas).

Family TYPHLOPIDAE

Blackish Blind Snake *Ramphotyphlops nigrescens*

Reserves: BM, GOS, N, TL, W, Y

Moderately common resident. Widespread at lower elevations, but not recorded from the two higher elevation reserves, Jenolan KCR and Kanangra-Boyd NP. A burrowing species found under rocks and logs in dry sclerophyll forest and grassy woodland. A cryptic species that is most often detected when it comes to the surface after rain. May be more abundant than the records suggest.

Proximus Blind Snake *Ramphotyphlops proximus*

Reserves: W (1995)

Rare resident. One found dead at Three Ways (Wollemi NP) in 1995 (BioNet Atlas). A burrowing species of dry sclerophyll forest and grassy woodland.

Brown-snouted Blind Snake *Ramphotyphlops wiedii*

Reserves: W (1995), Y (1975)

Rare resident at the eastern edge of its range. A specimen in the Australian Museum was collected in 1975 from the Putty Road near Milbrodale, at the junction of Wollemi NP and Yengo NP. One was found dead near Cobcroft Trig (Wollemi NP) in 1995 (BioNet Atlas). Generally found west of the Great Dividing Range in NSW, but also in the Hunter Valley. Like other blind snakes, it is a small, harmless, burrowing snake that feeds mostly on the larvae and pupae of ants and termites.

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