Brush-Tailed Phascogale



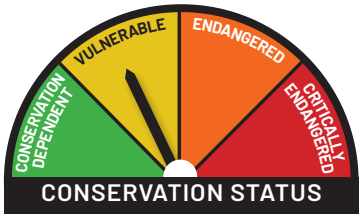
I have a black, bushy tail used to distract predators and to help keep me balanced. You will also notice my big eyes and ears - these help me find my way in the dark. I have sharp claws and teeth for climbing trees and catching prey. I'm grey – which is great camouflage in the bush! My Aboriginal name is Tuan.

Scientific Name:

Phascogale tapoatafa

Status:

Vulnerable



Habitat:

I live in the dry, open forests in Central Victoria. My favourite trees are eucalypts with rough bark: because they are easy to climb! I live inside tree hollows and only come out at night. We don't like living too close to our neighbours, so need a lot of bushland to spread out.

Diet:

I hunt at night and love to eat bugs. I eat insects, spiders and centipedes which I find on and under the bark of trees, on fallen logs and in the leaf litter. Sometimes I will also eat small reptiles, birds and mammals. I also will eat nectar from flowers.

Threats:

I like to shelter inside hollows, which are holes that form in trees over 100 years old. Logging and bushfires destroy these old trees. Also, I need the bush to be connected so that we can spread out, find mates, and escape bushfires and predators. I'm also vulnerable to being eaten by introduced predators like foxes and feral cats.

Brush Tailed Phascogales and Coliban Water:

Several of our properties provide habitat for the Phascogale, which we protect and monitor. We've worked with groups like Peppergreen Farm, a social enterprise, to build nesting boxes to improve their habitat.

The nesting boxes are used to study numbers and movements of the mammals and birds that use them. Nesting boxes aim to improve connectivity between habitats within the Bendigo Regional Park and provide refuge points for these mammals and birds.

Did you know?

Nest boxes for phascogales were first introduced at Spring Gully Reservoir by the Bendigo Field Naturalists more than 20 years ago? Coliban Water and volunteers have helped to monitor the species over the years.

Source: www.swifft.net.au/cb_pages/sp_brush-tailed_phascogale.php

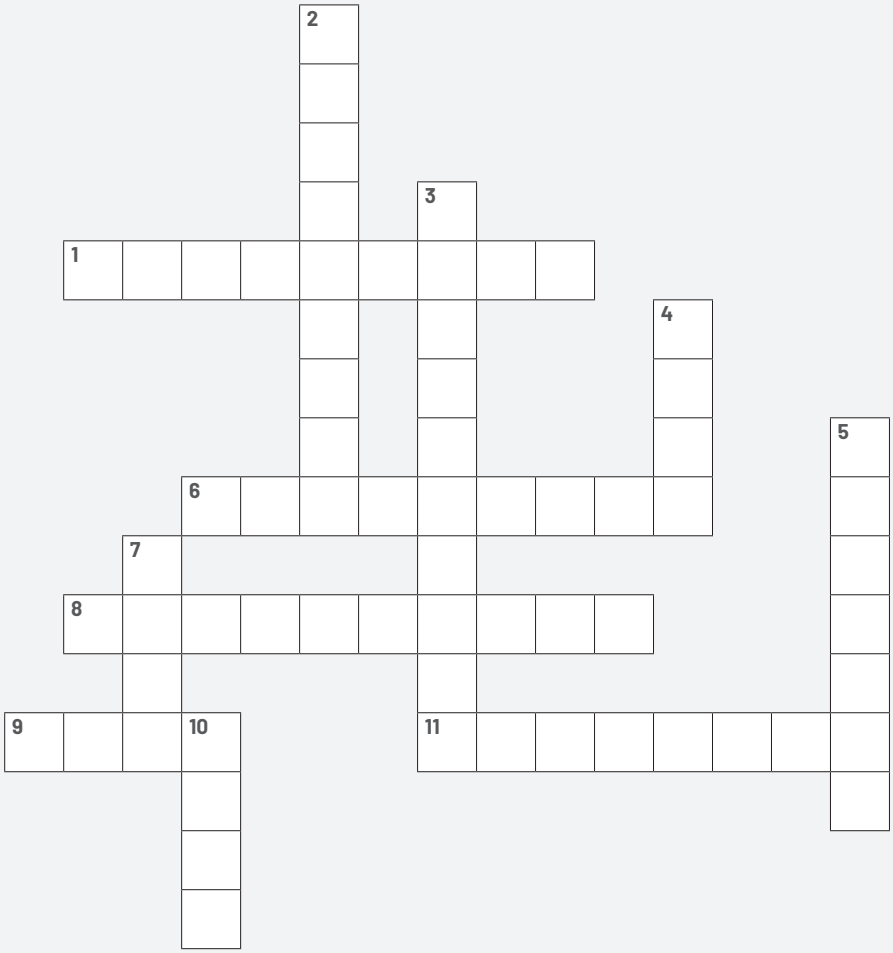
Dot to Dot

Join the dots from 1 to 65 to draw your own Brush-Tailed Phascogale and then colour it in.



Crossword

Read the information on page one and answer the questions about the Brush-Tailed Phascogale to complete the crossword puzzle.



DOWN

2. My bushy tail is used as a distraction to...
3. In the Australian Bush, my colour works as a...
4. This feature helps me find my way in the dark
5. One of my favourite things to eat
7. My Aboriginal name
10. My most distinctive feature

ACROSS

1. My scientific name is phascogale...
6. A major threat to my habitat
8. My conservation status
9. I do this at night
11. My favourite tree

CWE021_V2 (11/25)

Eltham Copper Butterfly



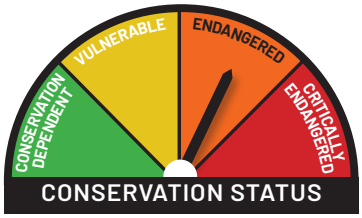
I'm a small, rare butterfly native to central Victoria.
You can recognise me by my bright orange-yellow or copper colouring. I have a unique triangular shape on the tops of my wings and have a pale brown colour underneath. I was thought to be extinct since the 1950s until I was rediscovered in 1986.

Scientific Name:

Paralucia pyrodiscus lucida

Status:

Endangered



Habitat:

You can only find me in three areas of Victoria. I like a habitat of sparse dry woodland. This woodland should consist of eucalyptus trees and shrubs, as well as native grasses, mosses and leaf litter.

Diet:

I like to feed on the nectar of Sweet Bursaria flowers. I also like other plants such as Hakeas.

Threats:

Habitat loss is the main threat for me. Land clearing, as well as sheep and cattle grazing can reduce the amount of Sweet Bursaria which is important to my life cycle. This also impacts the Notoncus ants that I need to look after my pupa (the stage between butterfly and caterpillar). Wildfire and invasion by weeds also degrade my important habitat.

Eltham Copper Butterfly and Coliban Water

Coliban Water is proud to say that there are some Eltham Copper Butterflies on the land we manage. To know that such a rare species lives on our land is amazing. We make sure to take it into consideration when making decisions about how we protect these areas.

Did you know?

I have a very special life-cycle. My life is short and I can only complete my life-cycle with the help of a Notoncus ant. This is called a symbiotic relationship. Firstly, we lay our eggs on the roots of the Sweet Bursaria plant from October to November.

Once the eggs hatch, Notoncus ants guard our caterpillars and lead them to and from their ant colony to feed on the Sweet Bursaria leaves. In return, the ants feed on sugar that is released from our caterpillars' bodies.

Over time our caterpillars change into a pupa. As the caterpillars pupate, either near or in the ant nest, the ants will guard and protect the pupa from predators!

We then transform into adult butterflies from late November to mid-January.

Source: www.swifft.net.au/cb_pages/sp_eltham_copper_butterfly.php

Eltham Copper Butterfly Scramble

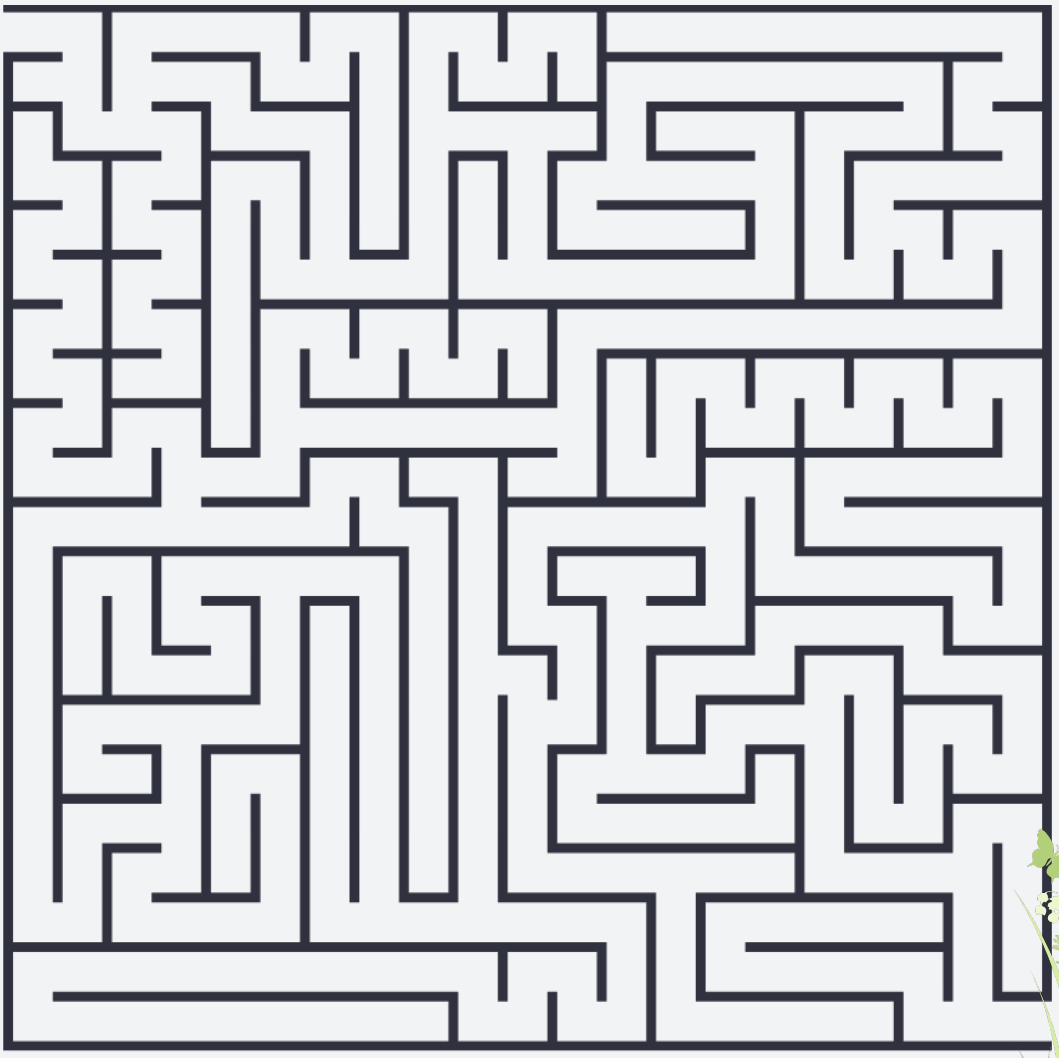
Can you unscramble some of these key words from the information on the first page?

NEDAEERGDN	_____	PAUP	_____
DOLDOWNA	_____	ELIF-CLEYC	_____
ARSUBI	_____	GESG	_____
ONTOUCSN	_____	RECPOP	_____
PLILRCARAERT	_____	CENTRA	_____

A-maze-ing Maze

The Eltham Copper Butterfly is lost! Can you help her find her way back home to her open woodlands habitat?







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Growling Grass Frog



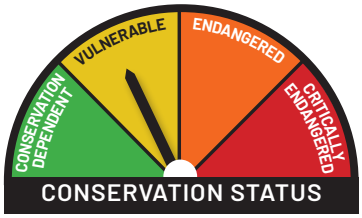
I'm the Growling Grass Frog. My colour varies from olive to bright emerald green with irregular bronze, gold brown or black spotting. My back is warty and I usually have a pale green stripe down the middle. When I call out, people think I sound like a motorbike. I'm one of the largest frog species in Australia!

Scientific Name:

Litoria raniformis

Status:

Vulnerable



Habitat:

You'll find me living amongst reeds and rushes growing in and along slow-moving streams, ponds, lagoons, swamps, lakes and even farm dams. I like warmer waters with temperatures between 18 and 25°C.

Diet:

I like to eat insects like beetles, termites, cockroaches, moths, butterflies and insect larvae. You might be surprised, but I'm also happy to eat lizards, snakes and even other frogs! I'm a 'sit-and-wait' predator. This means I do not actively hunt for food but rather sit and wait for prey to move into feeding range.

Threats:

Threats for me include climate change, pollution, and the loss of suitable habitat. Cats, foxes, and other introduced predators such as trout and Mosquitofish are also a threat.

Growling Grass Frogs at Bendigo Water Reclamation Plant:

There is a large population of endangered Growling Grass Frogs at Bendigo Water Reclamation Plant. The plant provides an ideal habitat, including plenty of water plants and rocks for protection from predators, which allows them to thrive.

We are committed to protecting this precious species. We give special consideration to Growling Grass Frog habitat requirements when planning projects and activities at the plant.

Did you know?

We are part of a project known as *Taskforce Growler.* We've joined forces with the Winton Wetlands to move some of the Growling Grass Frogs from the Bendigo Water Reclamation Plant to the Winton Wetlands, where they were locally extinct. This will help to improve the biodiversity in the area.

Source:www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=1828

Spot the difference

There are **seven** differences between the two pictures below, can you spot them?





Word Search

Search the grid below for the **fifteen** listed words, can you find them?

P	R	E	E	P	O	L	L	U	T	I	O	N
H	A	B	N	O	N	W	A	T	E	R	S	P
T	H	R	E	A	T	S	P	E	R	E	N	O
A	L	W	E	D	L	G	R	O	L	A	I	E
T	N	F	R	H	S	Y	I	B	P	W	N	G
I	S	O	G	R	E	T	A	T	I	A	S	O
B	T	R	E	H	A	R	N	S	D	E	E	R
A	R	D	O	L	E	A	W	P	A	H	C	F
H	I	W	E	N	Y	W	R	E	E	N	T	Y
D	P	Y	L	D	A	A	E	C	G	T	S	E
N	E	U	K	S	I	P	S	I	A	R	T	L
O	V	L	N	E	H	N	A	E	N	H	A	E
P	R	E	D	A	T	O	R	S	E	O	D	L

- [ ] INSECTS
- [ ] VULNERABLE
- [ ] STRIPE
- [ ] WARTY
- [ ] REEDS
- [ ] LARGE
- [ ] PREDATOR
- [ ] POLLUTION
- [ ] HABITAT
- [ ] SPECIES
- [ ] POND
- [ ] GREEN
- [ ] THREATS
- [ ] WATER
- [ ] FROG

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Eastern Bent-wing Bat



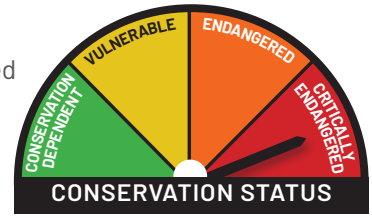
I'm a small insect-eating bat that lives in eastern and southeastern Australia. You'll know me by my long, narrow wings and unique bent shape at the elbow joint – that's actually how I got my name! My fur is soft and brown, and I'm often seen darting through the sky after the sun goes down chasing insects. I live in large colonies, often in caves or tunnels, and I play a vital role in keeping insect numbers down, especially mosquitoes.

Scientific Name:

Miniopterus orianae oceanensis

Status:

Critically Endangered



Habitat:

I rely on warm, humid caves for roosting and breeding. These caves must stay undisturbed so I can safely raise my young. At the end of summer, I will travel up to 300 km from these caves to my winter home! This will be a cooler, more stable shelter where I will hibernate while it is really cold.

Diet:

I forage in forests, grasslands and farmland – anywhere I can find insects! I eat flying insects like moths, beetles, and mosquitoes. I use echolocation to find my food at night, making me an important natural pest controller.

Threats:

The biggest threat to me is disturbance or loss of the caves I need to breed in. If people enter these caves or change their temperature or humidity, it can stop me from successfully raising my young. Habitat clearing, pesticides, and climate change also affect the food I rely on and the routes I travel.

Top Secret!

Some of the caves that microbats depend on are located on land managed by Coliban Water. We keep these sites safe and secret so that people won't disturb the bats. We also work hard to maintain a healthy habitat nearby. Protecting breeding caves and foraging areas is one of the best ways to help these precious animals survive into the future.

Did you know?

The Eastern Bent-wing Bat only has one baby a year – called a 'pup', so it's important that their breeding caves stay protected. They are very sensitive to changes in their environment – even small disturbances can stop them from breeding.

Source: https://bio-prd-naturekit-public-data.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/species_assessments/Miniopterus_orianae_oceanensis_61342.pdf

This or that...about the bat!

Draw a line between each key word and it's correct meaning. The first one is done for you.

Echolocations...	...are when an animal makes a sound and listens for the echo to figure out where things are. ...when animals use a magic flashlight in their eyes to shoot light beams and find objects.
Colonies...	...are a single person or animal living alone in the middle of nowhere. ...are a group of people or animals that live together in one place.
Hibernate....	...means to sleep or rest for a long time during the winter so an animal can save energy. ...means to stay up all night and never sleep at all.
Humid...	...means the air has a lot of water in it, so it feels warm, sticky, or damp. ...means the air is completely dry with no moisture at all.
Critically endangered...	...means an animal is super dangerous and will chase anyone it sees. ...means an animal is in big trouble because there are very few of them left, and they could disappear forever if we don't help protect them.

The bat cave

Find the correct path to help the Eastern Bent-wing Bat out of the cave to search for a new home to hibernate in through winter.



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