

A Field Trip to Bathurst and the Blue Mountains Area of New South Wales

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Introduction:

Between the 5th of October and the 10 Th of October I spent 5 days in the field at various localities in the Blue Mountains and Bathurst in an attempt to find a fairly large range of species for the purpose of Photography. I particular I was after the Broad Headed Snake *Hoplocephalus bungaroides* and the Blue Mountains Water Skink *Eulamprus leuraensis*. I have followed the taxonomy of Cogger 2000. It will be broken up into a day by day account. Temperature recorded with a thermometer that is accurate to 1 degree Celsius +/-.

5/10/2002:

A warm day, 25 degrees Celsius with occasional gusty winds at an area known as the Reid's Plateau in the Blue Mountains near Katoomba. The search started at 11 am and concluded at 2:30. It was resumed by torchlight again at 8:30 at night.

Broad Tailed Gecko

Phyllurus platurus

1 adult found in a rock crevice upside down. The same crevice also contained one *E. heatwolei* (see below). Later on that night the same part of the sandstone escarpment was checked to find a further 2 *P. platurus*. The temperature was now down to 18 degrees and was a clear night. When captured for photography the geckos emitted a loud series of squeaks in defence.

Heatwole's Water Skink

Eulamprus heatwolei

5 adults, one juvenile, All sunning themselves in front of a rock crevice. In one rock crevice 3 individuals where found.

Garden Skink

Lampropholis delicata

3 individuals found active sunning themselves

Grass Skink

Lampropholis guichenoti

2 individuals found sunning themselves on a path next to a series of large rocks.

6/10/2002:

From 9:30 am to 11:30 am at an area known as Leura Park. It was 25 degree Celsius with a small breeze and a clear sunny day.

Mountain Dragon

Tympanocryptis diemensis

One adult male found beside a walking track perched on a rock presumed to be basking, but it may have been on the lookout for other males intruding upon his territory.

She Oak Skink

Cyclodomorphus michaeli

One individual found amongst leaf litter. It was missing the hand on one of the anterior limbs.

Heatwole's Water Skink

Eulamprus heatwolei

2 individuals found basking on logs overhanging the creek

Garden Skink

Lampropholis delicata

Numerous individuals active amongst leaf litter

Grass Skink

Lampropholis guichenoti

4 individuals found basking on a series of rocks next to a Polluted Creek.

Skink

Pseudemoia entrecasteauxii

1 individual found sunning itself on a step at the base of the gully.

Blotched Blue Tongue (Alpine form)

Tiliqua nigrolutea

One individual found active walking across the path it had a heavy burden of Ticks that resembled the Australian Paralysis Tick *Ixodes holocyclus*.

7/10/ 2002:

Wentworth Falls Lake Park; a warm morning around 24 degrees Celsius with Cloud Cover and a slight breeze.

Blue Mountains Water Skink

Eulamprus leuraensis

2 individuals found basking in an overgrown stormwater drain. The drain's base was on slightly muddy indicating its use was infrequent. One of the skinks was basking on this mud while the other was basking inside a grass tussock. They were in close proximity to each other (approximately 2 metres apart).

Skink

Pseudemoia coventryi

Six of these small skinks were found tin

Skink

Pseudemoia duperreyi

One gravid female was found under a sheet of tin.

Skink

Pseudemoia entrecasteauxii

6 individuals basking on the bare dirt between grass tussocks in which they would retreat into if disturbed. This was in the same drain as the *E. leuraensis* but in a different position (these were at the top of the drain while the Water Skinks were at its base).

8/ 10/ 2002:

A warm day of 27 degrees Celsius a slight breeze with the occasional cloud in the surrounding area of Capertee.

Jacky Dragon

Amphibolurus muricatus

3 of these dragons were found all basking, one on a termite mound; another on a large slab of Sandstone while another was in a Casuarina tree.

Eastern Bearded Dragon

Pogona barbata

2 found, a juvenile basking on top of a fence post while another (an adult) was hiding in the shade on a burnt tree stump about 90 centimetres above the ground.

White's Skink

Egernia whitii monilligera

The largest ever White's Skink I have ever found with a total length of nearly 250mm. It was under an old fridge door on a west-facing slope.

Red Throated Skink

Pseudemoia platynota

4 skinks found under a few scattered sheets of corrugated iron.

Eastern Blue Tongue

Tiliqua scincoides

1 found dead on the road.

Eastern Brown Snake

Pseudonaja textilis

1 grey brown snake 1300 millimetres, total length was found dead on the road. The meat ants feeding on the animal were not impressed with me measuring the carcass and I was stung on the foot twice when one of the little so and so's found its way into my shoe!

8/10/2002:

In the afternoon I went to the Jenolan Caves where the day had cooled to 24 degrees Celsius by approximately 4 PM.

Eastern Water Dragon

Physignathus lesuerii lesuerii

5 adults were found on the rocks. 3 females and two males, the males here arm waving and head bobbing at each other.

Cunningham's Skink

Egernia cunninghami

One large adult was seen in a rock crevice, it was the southern form not the Sydney Sandstone form.

Eastern Water Skink

Eulamprus quoyii

2 adults running among the crevices in the limestone.

Blotched Blue Tongue (Alpine Form)

Tiliqua nigrolutea

2 individuals found dead on the road towards the entry to the Jenolan Caves.

9/10/2002 and 10/10/2002.

A warm day, about 26 degrees Celsius with wisps of cloud. On both days a search was conducted for an hour around 4:30 PM at Mount Panorama (Bathurst).

Southern Rainbow Skink

Carlia tetradactyla

4 individuals found all basking at the entrances to burrows, which lead under thin rocks.

Striped Skink

Ctenotus robustus

1 skink found under an old tractor tyre.

Grass Skink

Lampropholis guichenoti

2 individuals found under a large piece of decomposing chipboard.

Boulenger's Skink

Morethia boulengeri

1 individual found basking on an old tree stump about 10 cms from its base.

Reference:

Cogger, H. G. (2000) *Reptiles and Amphibians of Australia*. Reed New Holland, Sydney. 808 pp. 6th revised Ed.





