

Leadbeater's Possum

Gymnobelideus leadbeateri

Features & Adaptations

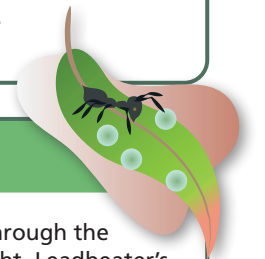


- 1 Club-shaped tail for balancing and carrying bark for nesting
- 2 Black dorsal stripe along its back
- 3 Lack of gliding membrane
- 4 Greyish-brown fur for camouflage
- 5 Specialised toes with ridged paw pads for gripping trees
- 6 Big eyes and ears to see and hear in the dark

Habitat

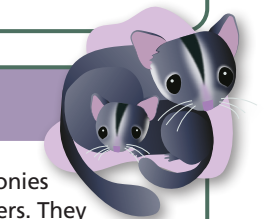


Leadbeater's possums are picky and only live in select forests with big, old trees. They shelter inside tree hollows and need lots of paths along branches and tree trunks to move around. There are only a few small patches of this precious habitat left in Victoria.



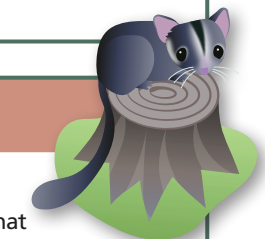
Diet

These nocturnal possums run through the forest searching for food at night. Leadbeater's possums are omnivorous; their diet contains both plants and animals. They eat the sweet sap and gum from eucalypt trees, wattles and tea tree, providing them with energy. For protein, they feed on insects such as crickets and moths.



Life Stages

Leadbeater's possums live in colonies that typically contain 3-6 members. They can live for 5-9 years. Each year these marsupials have 2 litters of 1-2 young. The young grow in the female's pouch for about 3 months. Adult females are dominant and fiercely defend their colony and territory.




Threats

Leadbeater's possums shelter inside hollows, which are holes that form in trees around 200 years old. Logging removes these old trees. Climate change increases the intensity and frequency of bushfires, which destroys the possum's habitat.

Conservation



Improving the quality of habitat and protecting old forests is very important. While waiting for trees to form hollows, rangers and friends put up nest boxes to provide extra homes for the possums. Although nest boxes can help in the short term, we need to ensure trees grow old to form natural hollows.

 Victoria's network of parks and reserves are an integral part of Aboriginal cultural landscapes. Parks Victoria respects the deep and continuing connection that Traditional Owners have to these landscapes and recognises their ongoing role in caring for Country.



Care for our possums by printing this poster on recycled paper or by viewing it on your device.