

Sugar Glider

Petaurus breviceps

An elusive species of the Macedon Ranges

The Sugar Glider is a small possum with flaps of skin between its limbs. These special skin flaps provide this marsupial with the ability to glide distances of up to 25 metres between trees.

They also prefer areas where there is a diversity of plant life including larger wattles and acacias which the Sugar Gliders are able to feed from. Sugar Gliders will also generally occur in areas of remnant vegetation where a variation of hollows are present for nesting.

Distribution

Sugar Gliders are found from Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria. They are generally found in eucalyptus dominated environments particularly open forests and woodland areas.

Breeding

This usually occurs between the months of June and January each year. Females will give birth to a pair of young which will remain in the pouch for the first 2 months.

Feeding

Sugar Gliders have a varied diet which includes:

- Eucalyptus sap
- Manna
- Acacia sap
- Nectar and pollen
- Invertebrates
- And even small birds

Hollows

Sugar Gliders are territorial and usually have a number of nest hollows that they will occupy in their home range. Inside the hollow, Sugar Gliders create a nest of fresh eucalyptus leaves in a cup shape. They regularly remove the old leaves and replace with new green leaves.

Interesting facts

It has been estimated that a family of Sugar Gliders can consume up to 200kg of insects per year.

Sugar gliders have various calls for the different behaviours. These include a YIP-YIP call when alerting of danger, a chatter sound when they are communicating in the nest, and sometimes a threatening growl during defending of territories.

Sugar Gliders are preyed upon by Owls, Kookaburras, Foxes and feral cats.

