



## ABOUT THE BOOK

The brushtail possum that gets into roofs is only one of over twenty types of possum in Australia. They range in size from tiny ones as small as a mouse, to larger possums as big as small dogs. Often mistaken for rodents, many of these Australian possums are so secretive that most of us don't even know they exist.

Colourful, detailed images and diagrams, as well as text in short paragraphs, make this a perfect book to attract children who love finding out about animals and biology.

Dealing with questions such as,

- Are possums the same as opossums?
- Whatever is a cuscus?
- Do they bite?

the book answers these, and many more, in ways that reveal the adaptations, biology, and the human interactions that we have with possums.

<b>SERIES</b>	Australia's Remarkable Wildlife
<b>TITLE</b>	Possum
<b>AUTHOR</b>	John Lesley
<b>PUBLISHER</b>	Redback Publishing (Also online at <a href="http://REDeBOOKS.com.au">REDeBOOKS.com.au</a> )
<b>PUBLICATION DATE</b>	October 2025
<b>ISBN</b>	978-1-761401-35-0
<b>PRICE</b>	\$29.99
<b>FORMAT</b>	Hardback, 277x223mm
<b>EXTENT</b>	32 pages, full-colour
<b>GENRE</b>	Children's non-fiction
<b>SUBJECTS</b>	Possums, Marsupials
<b>AGE SUITABILITY</b>	Interest age 7 to 12 years
<b>READING AGE</b>	Primary school years 3 to 6
<b>THEMA CODE</b>	YNNJ3/C5N79

## ABOUT THE SERIES

Australia has been an island continent surrounded by oceans for millions of years. During this long, long time, its animals have evolved into species that are unique and precious.

Covered with feathers, fur, spikes or scales, Australia's wild creatures can be beautiful, frightening and even dangerous.

Although all Australians know what kangaroos or koalas look like and where they live, there are many other local animals whose ways of life are still a mystery, even to scientists.

Find out about Australia's wonderful animals in this series, then look at them in a whole new way the next time you have a chance to get up close at a zoo, in the wild or in your own backyard.



## CONTENTS

What is a Possum?

Marsupials

Possum Basic Facts

Types of Possums

*Common Brushtail Possum*

*Common Ringtail Possum*

*Mountain Pygmy Possum*

*Honey Possum*

*Sugar Glider*

*Common Spotted Cuscus*

Possum Lifecycle

Threats to Possums

Possums and People

More Possums

Sorting Animals into Groups

Glossary

Index



## TEXT AND ILLUSTRATIONS

The colourful design and layout of all the titles in the *Australia's Remarkable Wildlife* series present the biology of Australian animals in a style that will interest, amuse and educate children. The graphic design makes the information easily accessible through both text and images, encouraging children of different learning styles to engage with the content.

Multiple fact boxes, intriguing images, and short paragraphs on each spread contribute to making this series perfect for children seeking facts for study, recreational reading, or browsing.





# IDEAS FOR THE CLASSROOM

## AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

### Aims of This Activity

- Understand possum adaptations
- Consider why different animals have such varied types of adaptations

### Procedure

1. Read the section *Types of Possums*, starting on page 10 of the book.
2. Find all the possum adaptations that are mentioned there.
3. Discuss why so many different types of possums have evolved in Australia.

## AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

### Aims of This Activity

- Understand what a marsupial animal is
- Develop some ideas about why the continent of Australia has more species of marsupials than anywhere else in the world

### Procedure

1. Using the index, find and read all the sections in the book that mention marsupials.
2. Make a list of the features of a marsupial animal.
3. Discuss why the Australian continent has more marsupial animals than anywhere else.
4. Find more information about marsupials on the REDeLEARN website by typing the word *marsupials* in the search box there.

## AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

### Aims of This Activity

- Understand how possum survival is affected by human activities in the environment
- Become aware of ways that people can help to stop the extinction of vulnerable possums

### Procedure

1. Read the chapter *Threats to Possums*, and the section on the Mountain Pygmy Possum.
2. Discuss how human activities are affecting possums.
3. Is it inevitable that small possums will become extinct in the future?





# BOOK ORDERS

AUSTRALIA'S REMARKABLE WILDLIFE

TITLE	ISBN	RRP	QTY
POSSUM BY JOHN LESLEY	978-1-761401-35-0	\$29.99	

TRADE ORDERS	Redback Publishing is distributed to the trade in Australia by Daintree Books <a href="http://www.daintreebooks.com.au">www.daintreebooks.com.au</a>
SCHOOL ORDERS	Please contact your favourite bookshop or library bookseller
eBOOK	Available via a REDeBOOKS subscription at <a href="http://www.redebooks.com.au">www.redebooks.com.au</a>

If you have any issues acquiring Redback Publishing's books,  
please contact us at  
[www.redbackbooks.com](http://www.redbackbooks.com)

