Forest Red Gum

Eucalyptus tereticornis

Adaptation to environment

- After fire, quickly re-grows new shoots from ‘epicormic buds’ under bark
- Leaves packed with oil to discourage leaf feeders; oil makes fire burn quickly but then die down before causing serious damage
- One of few gum trees that can tolerate very wet conditions as well as dry periods
- Provides many nesting sites for birds & possums
- Large root system for stability.

Where do I live? Woodland

What eats me?

- Koalas, caterpillars eat leaves
- Scale insects, lerps, cicadas suck sap.
- Lorikeets, honeyeaters, possums & gliders, bees, wasps & butterflies eat nectar & pollen.

• Tall tree to 50 m • Creamy white to pink gum flowers • Woody seed capsule (gum-nut) • Smooth bark is shed in sheets each year revealing mottled colours of grey, white, blue • Fast growing.

Saw-leaf Banksia

Banksia serrata

Adaptation to environment

- Hard, sharp-edged leaves discourage leaf feeders
- Seeds protected from fire in large, woody capsule; seeds only released after fire to germinate in fresh ash
- Winged seeds widely dispersed by wind
- Thick corky bark protects tree from fire; after fire, quickly re-grows new shoots from ‘epicormic buds’
- Fine ‘proteoid’ roots help extract nutrients from poor soil.

Where do I live? Woodland Frontal Dunes

What eats me?

- Lorikeets, honeyeaters, possums & gliders, bees & other insects eat abundant nectar
- Aboriginal people soaked flowers in water to make sweet drink.

• Small tree to 16 m • Leaves with saw-shaped edges, pale underneath • Large, “candle-shaped” pale yellow flowers
• Straight trunk • Named for Joseph Banks, botanist on Captain Cook’s voyage.

Blue Tongue

Melastoma affine

Adaptation to environment

- Hairy leaves make them less edible & reduce water loss
- Sweet, dark-purple fruit contains tiny, hard seeds that pass unaltered through gut of birds & other animals for greater dispersal.

Where do I live? Woodland Swamp

What eats me?

- Many creatures (including humans) eat sweet fruit
- "Melastoma" means "black mouth" referring to dark staining after eating fruit.

• Tall shrub to 2 m • Leaves fleshy, hairy, oval-shaped with strong veins • Showy mauve to purple flowers with yellow stamens • Grows in moist places.

Mistletoe

Various species

Adaptation to environment

- Fruit with sticky, sweet, chewy pulp; birds after eating & digesting fruit, need to wipe their anus on branches to remove sticky seeds thereby transferring seeds to new host
- On germination, a root like a ‘sucker’ starts attachment to host tree.

Where do I live? Woodland Frontal Dunes

What eats me?

- Caterpillars eat leaves: several butterfly species breed only on mistletoe
- Mistletoe Birds are closely associated with mistletoes & seeds eaten by them germinate well; honeyeaters & other birds also eat fruit
- Humans find fruit palatable.

• Shrub growing on other trees; 'hemi-parasitic' - gains moisture & some nutrient from host plant but produces some itself • Showy red & yellow flowers with long stamens,, 1 -3.5 cm in clusters.

Olive-backed Oriole

Oriolus sagittatus

Adaptation to environment

- Flocks follow fruiting trees – this cooperation helps with finding food as well as defence against predators
- Female's dull colouring helps her to remain camouflaged while she is sitting on a nest of eggs
- Eyes very sensitive to colour variation so they can tell which figs are ripe/unripe/ over-ripe.

Feeding relationships

Where do I live? Woodland Swamp

What do I eat?

- Fruit (figs, lilly pilly)
- Some insects.

What eats me?

- Pythons, Lace Monitors
- Birds of prey.

• Length: 28cm • The name comes from their call, “orry, orry-ole’; they also mimic other bird calls.

Razor Grinder Cicada

Henicopsaltria eydouxiia

Adaptation to environment

- Females lay batches of eggs in slits on tree trunks & nymphs feed on sap from roots of eucalyptus; adults emerge & feed on sap from tree trunks
- Males sing loudly to attract females & can be heard up to a kilometre away
- Suck sap through a rostrum which is like a drinking straw with two tubes, one for saliva going down & one for sap coming up
- As well as two compound eyes, has extra three small eyes that detect direction of light & help in flight.

Feeding relationships

Where do I live? Woodland

What do I eat?

- Nymphs use their piercing mouthparts to suck sap from eucalyptus roots
- Adults suck sap from trees; sap is low in nutrients so gut filters out large molecules; water & simple sugars are;
- When cicadas are in large numbers fine “cicada rain” falls.

What eats me?

- Bandicoots dig up nymphs
- Birds, bats, gliders, spiders, lizards eat adults.
- N.B. Cicada killer Wasps use cicadas to feed lavae.

• Length 35 – 42 mm • Forewing 50 – 55 mm • “Metal grinding” sound • Forms huge groups whose combined sound can be painful to the ear & drive other animals away.

Figbird

Sphecotheres viridis

Adaptation to environment

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- Female's dull colouring helps her to remain camouflaged while she is sitting on a nest of eggs
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Feeding relationships

Where do I live? Woodland Swamp

What do I eat?

- Fruit (figs, lilly pilly)
- Some insects.

What eats me?

- Pythons, Lace Monitors
- Birds of prey.

• Length: 28 cm • Male: head black, red eye patch, shoulders grey • Female: upper body brown, under-body white striped brown • Young males look like females but, as they mature, their head becomes black & they develop a flesh coloured eye-patch, which eventually becomes bright red. Females will choose to mate with males with the brightest colouring.

Squirrel Glider

Petaurus norfolcensis

Adaptation to environment

- Skin flap between front & hind legs can be stretched out like a wing for gliding between trees. This allows it to avoid dangerous trips to the ground & to move quickly when foraging or escaping predators
- Long fluffy tail helps steer when gliding.

Feeding relationships

Where do I live?

Woodland Swamp Mangrove Shore

What do I eat?

- Beetles, caterpillars (including species with stinging or irritating hairs) & other insects
- Occasionally eggs, nestling birds & other small animals.
- When insect numbers are low, wattlesap, eucalyptus pollen, nectar & sap: eucalyptus sap obtained by making cuts in its bark.

What eats me?

- Lace Monitors, pythons
- Eagles, hawks, owls.

• Length: body 21 cm, tail 27 cm • Mass: 230 g • Large rat-sized body, soft grey with black stripe on head & body
• Nests in tree hollows – group usually contains 2 adult males, 2 adult females & some young.

Spiny Leaf Insect

Extatosoma tiaratum

Adaptation to environment

- Their leaf-like appearance & still posture make them very difficult to spot amongst trees
- Females constantly lay eggs, each egg is flicked & may travel several metres to increase distribution
- Eggs are hard & look like seeds, for protection & camouflage.

Feeding relationships

Where do I live? Woodland

What do I eat?

- Leaves of many types of shrubs & trees.

What eats me?

- Birds, small mammals
- Ants & other insects prey on eggs & small nymphs.

• Length 16 cm • Female is fat, spiny, wingless; hangs upside down with tail curved over back; she is able to produce around 500 eggs in her lifetime, which are dropped on forest floor • Male is much more slender & has long wings.

Case moth

Metura elongata

Adaptation to environment

- Larva makes a bag which it covers with sticks for very effective camouflage in forest & protection.

Feeding relationships

Where do I live? Woodland

What do I eat?

- Larvae eat leaves of eucalypts, tea trees, paper barks & lots of other plants
- Adults do not feed.

What eats me?

- Birds, small mammals
- Parasitic wasps & flies.

• Case Length: up to 150 mm • Spends most of its life as a caterpillar inside a portable case • Adult male moths have wings (wingspan 40 – 50 mm) • Female adult moths are wingless & do not leave their case.

Rhinoceros Beetle

Xylotrupes gideon

Adaptation to environment

- Large beetle's fearsome appearance & loud hissing helps to drive off predators, although it is actually quite harmless
- Larvae play a role in decomposing plant material.

Feeding relationships

Where do I live? Woodland

What do I eat?

- Larvae live in soil & feed on decomposing plant material
- Adults eat soft bark of young shoots on trees.

What eats me?

- Bandicoots dig for larvae
- Adults eaten by birds, snakes, lizards, bandicoots, cane toads.

• Length: to 60 mm • Male has forked horn on head, used in male to male combat similar to stags fighting; female plain beetle without horn.

Bag shelter moth

Ochrogaster lunifer

Adaptation to environment

- Larvae covered with long dense hairs which have a powerful irritant to keep predators away
- Live in large group in silken bag attached to base of tree trunk during day & come out to feed at night.

Feeding relationships

Where do I live? Woodland

What do I eat?

- Larvae eat leaves of wattle trees.

What eats me?

- Larvae are well protected but attacked by parasitic flies & predatory bugs
- Adults are eaten by birds & lizards.

• Wingspan: 45 - 65 mm • When larvae leave tree to pupate or move to another tree they form a long chain – head to tail – & are known as processionary caterpillars.