SPOTTING POSSUMS
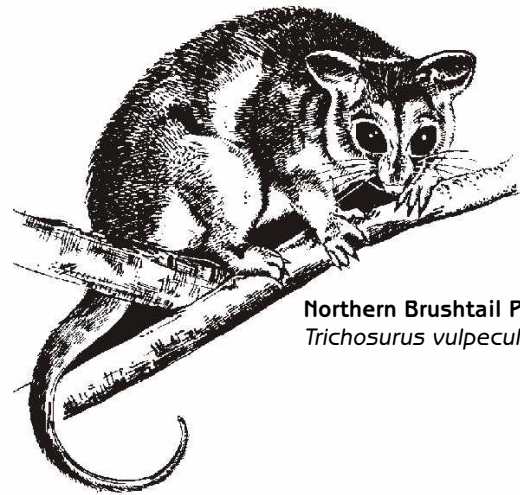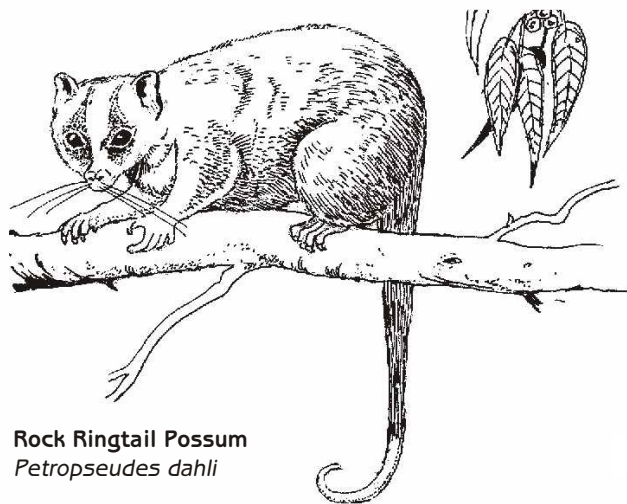
Possums are quite common in southern cities. In the Territory, however, you sometimes need to go further afield to find them.

Look for the **Northern Brushtail Possum** in Top End eucalypt forests that don't often get burnt by dry season fires. It hides during the daytime in tree hollows and prefers large eucalypts, especially the Darwin Woollybutt. Many Top End residents become familiar with these creatures as they don't mind living in urban situations, including the roof of peoples houses.
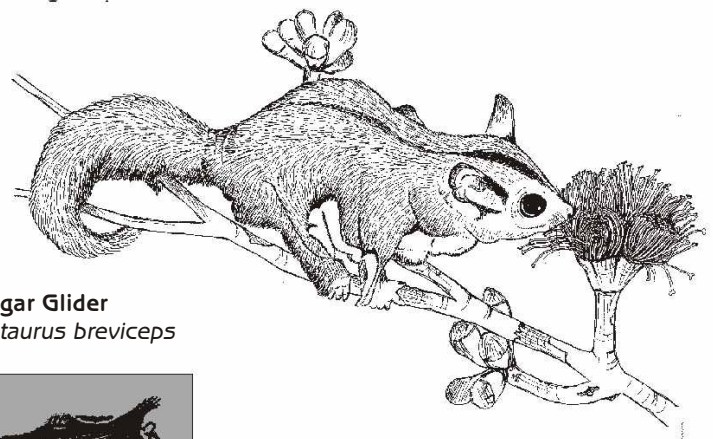

Northern Brushtail Possum
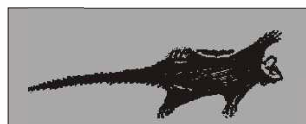*Trichosurus vulpecula*

Rock Ringtail Possum
Petropseudes dahli

The **Rock Ringtail Possum** feeds at night in trees but spends the day hiding among rocks. It prefers sandstone country such as the escarpment in Kakadu or Katherine Gorge. Unusually for ringtails, they are often seen together in small family groups.

Sugar Glider
Petaurus breviceps

Sugar Gliders can glide as far as 50 metres by spreading the skin between their front and back legs. Like the Brushtails, you'll find them in the better quality eucalypt forests of the Top End. They like forests with a good understorey of shrubs and lots of leaf litter on the ground.

Northern Territory Government
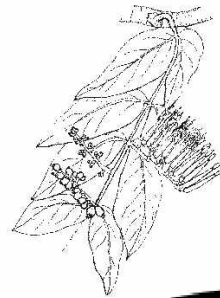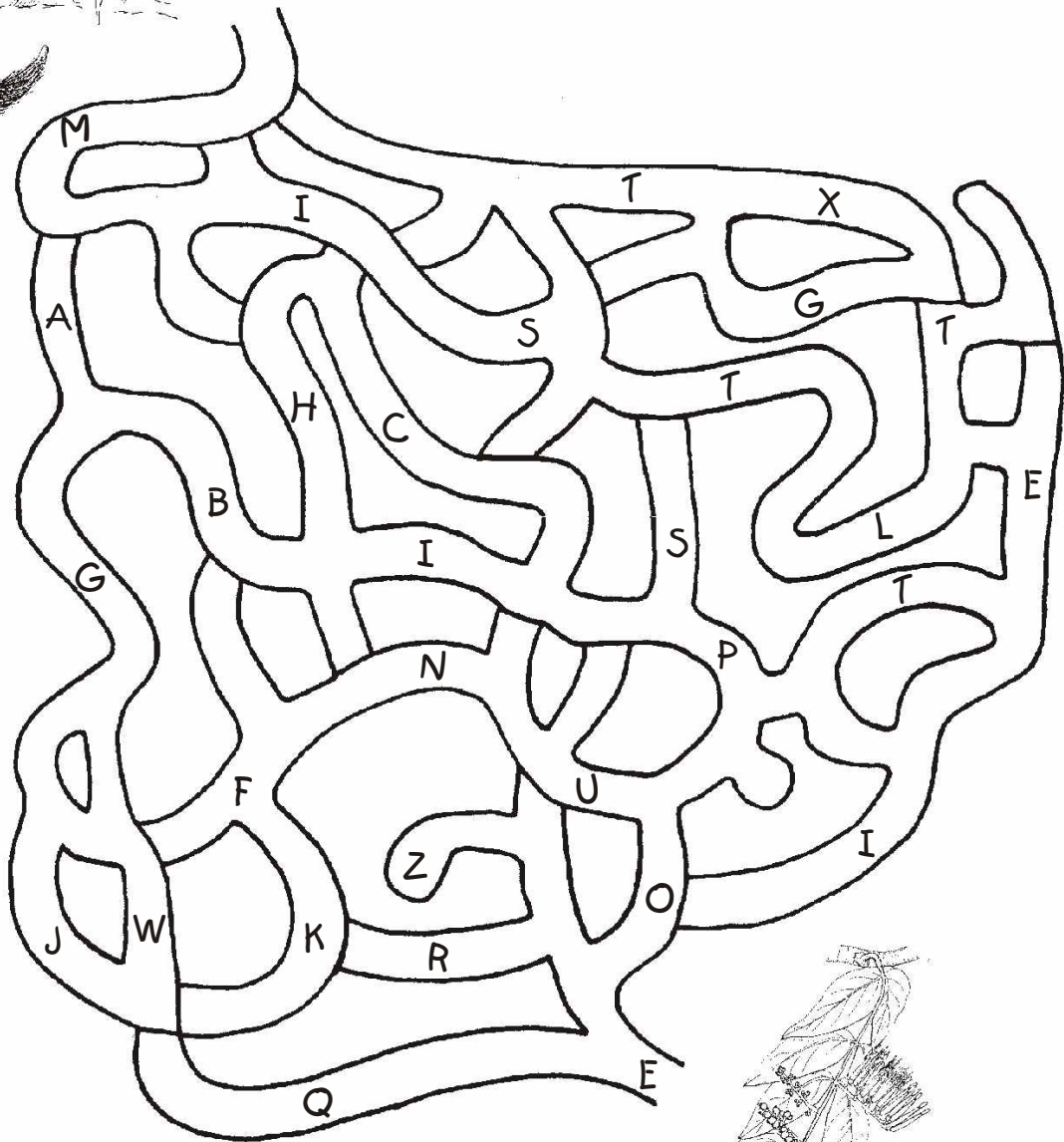
Parks and Wildlife Service

POSSUMS IN THE CENTRE

Until recently possums were thought to be extinct in Central Australia. However, small numbers of Brushtails have now been found in the MacDonnell and Petermann Ranges. Unlike their Top End cousins, these Centralian Brushtails hide in rock crevices and small caves as well as tree hollows along creeks. They are now listed as ENDANGERED.

Help this possum find it's way to its evening meal. Along the correct route you'll meet 9 letters which spell out the name of the plant it wants to eat.

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Want to learn more about possums?

Check out the reference books *The Mammals of Australia* by *Ronald Strahan* and *A Field Guide to the Mammals of Australia* by *Menkhorst and Knight*.