

# BUSH DETECTIVE

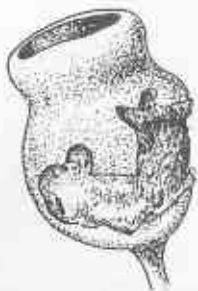
*Who ate that honkey nut?*

Have you ever noticed that the gum nuts under a Marri tree have been severely chewed? Marri produces one of the largest seeds of any eucalypt and they are an extremely important seed source for many different types of fauna. Several parrots enjoy eating them, and each has a different method of getting into the seed cavity.

Twenty-eights rip away at the fruit (A), Red-caps tweak the seeds out with their long upper bill (B) while Baudin's Black Cockatoos use their bolt-cutters of bills to simply rip the opening wider (C). If you want to get a feeling for how powerful they are, try tearing a honkey nut open with your hands!



Seeds



A



B



C

*Drawings by Margaret Pieroni from "Leaf and Branch: Trees and tall shrubs of Perth" by Robert Powell. CALM.*