

## MEMBER'S PAGE

### MORE ABOUT SNOTTYGOBBLE SEEDLINGS ...

by Lyn Atkins

JUST thought I'd throw in my two bob's worth on the snottygobble story from Gidgeannup (published in April's Western Wildlife)....

We have many *Persoonia elliptica* seedlings in the bush at home (Parkerville). We also have a resident brushtail possum who lives in a dead jarrah tree in the middle of the bush on the northern side of the house. Under this tree are several (4) snottygobble seedlings, which appear to be directly under the hollow I'd expect the possum to live in.

Most other snottygobble seedlings (probably about 75%) are within one metre of the trunk of either a marri or jarrah tree or more rarely a snottygobble tree or tree stump; the others are more randomly located but generally not close to a parent snottygobble, which would indicate transport by something large. There are less seedlings as distance increases from the possum home tree. With the exception of one tree which is on the property boundary, all snottygobble trees had been stripped of their fruit except on the smallest outside branches. There was also no evidence of fruit on the ground when I checked in April,

shortly after reading the article, so something has been eating it.

On the south side of the house the situation is different; as far as I can gather the possum visits this side less often because there is less evidence of tree trunks being climbed, probably because it would have to pass the dog to get there! On the south there are far less seedlings, they are located more randomly, but there are also less potential parent trees though they'd also lost their fruit.

And in all cases the seedlings are extremely slow growing (in fact I've not seen them grow at all!) but seem to live at a small size for ages. There is no correlation between seedlings and areas which we have burnt in the six years we've been there, but I don't know if these small seedlings survive a fire or not.

Of course this isn't a scientific study and the results are not statistically proven ... just my observations on a walk around to see if my theory of the seedlings being close to tree trunks was possible!

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