

Biological Survey of Para Wirra Catchment, Mt Lofty Ranges

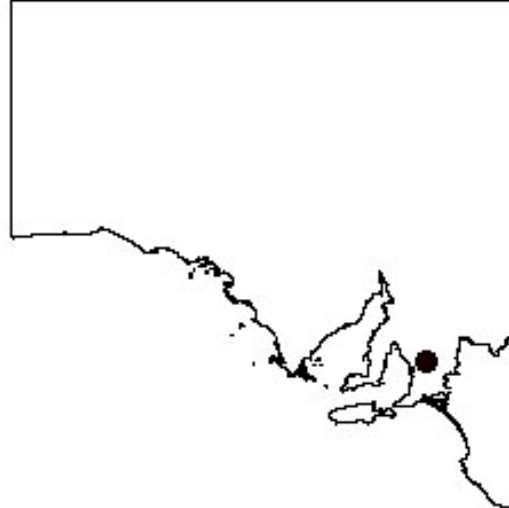
Bickerton, H., Field, S. and O'Connor, P. (2000). *A Biological Survey and Monitoring in the South Para Region*. Nature Conservation Society of South Australia Inc.

Undertaken by: Nature Conservation
Society South
Australia

Surveyed in: 2000

Published: Not published

Availability: Can be viewed or
copied on request
from NCSSA.
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Summary:

The South Para region of the Mount Lofty Ranges north of Adelaide is the focus of many conservation efforts. In the spring 2000, 9 sites in the region were surveyed for flora and fauna. Methods used followed the Biological Survey of South Australia and included detailed vegetation sampling, pitfall trapping and Elliott trapping of small mammals and reptiles, and observation of birds. Invertebrate fauna were also sampled.

- 229 species of plants;
- 18 species of mammal;
- 54 species of bird;
- 15 species of reptile;
- 4 amphibian species;
- 13 plant species of conservation significance were recorded.

Other species of regional interest were the yellow-footed antechinus (*Antechinus flavipes*) and southern scaly-foot legless lizard (*Pygopus lepidopodus*).

Monitoring methods were also developed to determine the effects of the on-ground works of revegetation and regeneration sites established with the support of the South Para Biodiversity Project. 13 monitoring sites were established and permanently marked. Baseline data on vegetation and birds was collected. Remnant vegetation sites showed a higher species diversity, species richness and percentage of native species than either revegetation or regeneration sites, although this result was not statistically significant. Remnant vegetation sites also showed higher species diversity and species richness for birds. Both vegetation and bird monitoring methods were examined for their ability to confidently detect future change. Methods and recommendations for future monitoring of vegetation and birds is included in this report.