

advisory list of  
**threatened**  
**invertebrate fauna**  
in Victoria  
- 2009



# Advisory List of Threatened Invertebrate Fauna In Victoria - 2009

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## **Cover image**

*Myrmecia* species (17), a threatened bullant from central Victoria. Photography by Gary Backhouse.

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# Introduction

## **Purpose of the List**

This advisory list of invertebrate taxa that are considered threatened, poorly known, near threatened or extinct in Victoria is maintained by the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

The information in this list may be of use in a range of planning processes, such as the preparation of National Park Management Plans, Forest Management Plans, local government planning schemes, regional catchment strategies and in setting priorities for actions to conserve biodiversity.

Together with the range of programs and other resources available, lists of this type serve to increase community awareness of threatened species and may encourage community members to become involved in activities to protect threatened species, thereby reducing the risk of their conservation status worsening.

## **Relationship to Statutory Lists**

This advisory list is not the same as the statutory list of threatened taxa established under the Victorian **Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988** (FFG Act). There are no legal requirements or consequences that flow from inclusion of a species in this advisory list.

However, some of the species in this advisory list are also listed as threatened under the FFG Act. The FFG Act Threatened List only includes items that have been nominated, assessed by the Scientific Advisory Committee and approved for listing by the responsible Minister.

There are also species on this list that are listed under the Commonwealth **Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999**. This information is included in the tables. Readers who are interested in learning more about this Act should visit the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts website [www.environment.gov.au](http://www.environment.gov.au)

## **Composition of the List and Assessment of Taxa**

For simplicity, the term 'threatened' is used in the title of this list. However, this term actually only applies to taxa that are classified as either vulnerable, endangered, critically endangered, or extinct in the wild. Taxa that are classified as extinct, data deficient or near threatened are not considered to be threatened in the strict sense.

The procedure used to assess which taxa are eligible for listing is that recommended by the IUCN Species Survival Commission (IUCN 2001) [[www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org)]. For species that occur widely outside Victoria, the guidelines for applying the IUCN criteria at a regional level (IUCN 2003) were used.

The preparation of this advisory list primarily involved seeking expert opinion from specialists on various invertebrate groups. These specialists were asked to identify likely threatened species, provide information on occurrence and threats (if known) and make a preliminary assessment of conservation status. This information was checked against any published literature (e.g. National Action Plan for Australian Butterflies: Sands & New 2000) and, for those species listed under the FFG Act, information in the listing nomination. The formal conservation status assessments were then undertaken by DSE staff using IUCN Red List categories and criteria (IUCN 2001).

Taxa were only considered for inclusion in this List where they have been formally described or, for undescribed taxa, where a manuscript-ready taxonomic description of the species was available, there are adequately curated voucher specimens and the taxon is recognised by Museum Victoria. Several invertebrates proposed for inclusion in this List by relevant experts did not meet these criteria and were not included. Taxa were not considered for inclusion in this List if they occur in Victoria only as vagrants i.e. rarely, irregularly and in small numbers. Some examples of vagrants to Victoria are the Orchard Butterfly *Papilio aegaeus* and the water beetle *Gyrinus convexiusculus*.

It needs to be understood that there are inherent biases in the preparation of this List, which is indicative of the expertise that is available on the various invertebrate groups. For instance, this List includes coverage of only six of the 33 phyla of invertebrates. Even within these six phyla, coverage is very

limited, and only the butterflies and freshwater crays have had a comprehensive conservation status assessment of all species occurring in Victoria. The List is also heavily biased towards freshwater invertebrates, with minimal coverage of terrestrial and marine invertebrates. There is virtually no information available on which to assess the conservation status of species in the other 27 phyla of invertebrates, which reflects the general lack of systematic surveys for invertebrates.

## **Invertebrate Conservation**

The vast majority of living animals are invertebrates, with insects comprising the largest group of invertebrates. Yet, with few exceptions, the conservation of invertebrates has received very little attention, although their conservation is vital. Invertebrates are involved in virtually all of the major ecological processes, and are critical in maintaining functioning ecosystems. Invertebrates are major predators of plants, themselves provide food for many animals, are important in decomposition for nutrient cycling, and in plant pollination, seed dispersal, harvesting and germination. Invertebrates provide food for and products used by humans, are crucial in human food production, and have a largely unrealised potential in biotechnology.

The overwhelming majority of threatened species will be invertebrates, simply because of the vast number of invertebrate species. Scientists have estimated that, for every species of plant that has become extinct, up to 15 species of animals (mostly invertebrates) also become extinct. However this situation is unlikely to be ever reflected in any formal lists of threatened species, because of the lack of information on virtually all invertebrates. Only about one-third of the estimated number of invertebrate species have even been described. There are also problems in determining the conservation status of species for which there is some information. Invertebrates can be abundant in a very small area, experience large fluctuations in numbers in different parts of their life cycles or between seasons, and some have complex life cycles involving several distinctly different stages. Considering the degree of habitat loss and modification in Victoria, there are likely to be many more threatened invertebrates than indicated by this List.

## **Arrangement of the List**

The threatened invertebrate taxa in this List are arranged by Phylum and, for the arthropods, further divided into subphyla due to the relatively large number of arthropod taxa assessed as threatened. Within each phylum (or subphylum), taxa are listed alphabetically by scientific name within each conservation status category. The categories are as follows:

## **Conservation Status in Victoria**

### **Extinct (EX)**

A taxon is Extinct when there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died. A taxon is presumed Extinct when exhaustive surveys in known and/or expected habitat, at appropriate times (diurnal, seasonal, annual), throughout its historic range have failed to record an individual. Surveys should be over a time frame appropriate to the taxon's life cycle and life form.

### **Regionally Extinct (RE)**

As for Extinct but within a defined region (in this case the State of Victoria) that does not encompass the entire geographic range of the taxon. A taxon is presumed Regionally Extinct when exhaustive surveys in known and/or expected habitat, at appropriate times (diurnal, seasonal, annual), throughout the region have failed to record an individual. Surveys should be over a time frame appropriate to the taxon's life cycle and life form.

### **Extinct in the Wild (EW)**

A taxon is Extinct in the Wild when it is known only to survive in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalized population (or populations) well outside the past range. A taxon is presumed Extinct in the Wild when exhaustive surveys in known and/or expected habitat, at appropriate times (diurnal, seasonal,

annual), throughout its historic range have failed to record an individual. Surveys should be over a time frame appropriate to the taxon's life cycle and life form.

### **Critically Endangered (CR)**

A taxon is Critically Endangered when the best available evidence indicates that it meets any of the criteria A to E for Critically Endangered (see IUCN 2001), and it is therefore considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.

### **Endangered (EN)**

A taxon is Endangered when the best available evidence indicates that it meets any of the criteria A to E for Endangered (see IUCN 2001), and it is therefore considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.

### **Vulnerable (VU)**

A taxon is Vulnerable when the best available evidence indicates that it meets any of the criteria A to E for Vulnerable (see IUCN 2001), and it is therefore considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.

### **Near Threatened (NT)**

A taxon is Near Threatened when it has been evaluated against the criteria but does not qualify for Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable now, but is close to qualifying for or is likely to qualify for a threatened category in the near future.

### **Data Deficient (DD)**

A taxon is Data Deficient when there is inadequate information to make a direct, or indirect, assessment of its risk of extinction based on its distribution and/or population status. A taxon in this category may be well studied, and its biology well known, but appropriate data on abundance and/or distribution are lacking. Data Deficient is therefore not a category of threat. Listing of taxa in this category indicates that more information is required and acknowledges the possibility that future research will show that threatened classification is appropriate.

## **Conservation Status in Australia (EPBC)**

National conservation status is based on the **Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999** (EPBC Act) list of taxa considered threatened in Australia. In some instances the scientific and/or the common names of animals may have changed since the taxon was first listed under the EPBC Act. In such instances the EPBC Act status has been applied to the circumscription intended at the time of listing under the Act. This information is accurate as at July 2009. For further information regarding the EPBC Act and, in particular, for the most up-to-date listings under the Act, refer to the following web site: <http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/> The categories are as follows:

### **Extinct (EX)**

A taxon is Extinct when there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual of the taxon has died.

### **Critically Endangered (CR)**

A taxon is Critically Endangered when it is facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future.

### **Endangered (EN)**

A taxon is Endangered when it is not critically endangered but is facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future.

## Vulnerable (VU)

A taxon is Vulnerable when it is not critically endangered or endangered but is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future.

## Conservation Dependent (CD)

A taxon is Conservation Dependent when it is the focus of a specific conservation program, the cessation of which would result in the taxon becoming vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered within a period of five years.

## Status under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (FFG)

This column provides information on the listing status under the provisions of Part 3 of the **Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988**. A taxon may be listed as threatened if it has been nominated, assessed by the Scientific Advisory Committee and approved by the Minister for Environment and Conservation. Any person may make a nomination for listing. This information is accurate as at January 2007. For the most up-to-date listings under the Act, refer to the following web site: <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au>

## Listed (L)

Listed as threatened.

## Nominated (N)

Nominated for listing as threatened but has not yet completed the listing process. In some cases, the taxon may have received a preliminary or final recommendation indicating that it is eligible or ineligible for listing. In other cases, the nomination might not yet have been considered.

## Invalid or ineligible (I)

Nominated but rejected for listing as threatened on the basis that the taxon was considered to be invalid (either undescribed or not widely accepted) or ineligible (taxon does not satisfy any of the primary listing criteria).

## Delisted (D)

Previously listed as threatened but subsequently removed from the Threatened List following nomination for delisting.

## Statistics

**Table 1: Conservation status classification of threatened invertebrates, by group**

Group	Category								Total	FFG	EPBC
	EX	RE	EW	CR	EN	VU	NT	DD			
Cnidarians	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	0
Platyhelminths	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0
Molluscs	0	0	0	3	2	5	0	0	10	10	0
Annelids	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
Arthropods											
<i>Crustaceans</i>	1	0	0	3	15	26	1	7	53	18	0
<i>Insects</i>	0	5	0	14	10	37	6	30	102	35	1
Echinoderms	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	8	7	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>2</b>

**Abbreviations:** EX = Extinct; RE = Regionally Extinct; EW = Extinct in the Wild; CR = Critically Endangered; EN = Endangered; VU = Vulnerable; NT = Near Threatened; DD = Data Deficient; FFG = Listed under the FFG Act; EPBC = Listed under the EPBC Act

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## Phylum Cnidaria (sea anemones, jellyfish)

### Vulnerable

<i>Australonmedusa baylii</i>	Brackish Jellyfish		
<i>Ralpharia coccinea</i>	stalked hydroid	L	

## Phylum Platyhelmintha (flatworms)

### Vulnerable

<i>Spathula tryssa</i>	flatworm		
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### Data Deficient

<i>Spathula goubaultae</i>	flatworm		
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## Phylum Mollusca (slugs, snails, shellfish, squids)

### Critically Endangered

<i>Austropyrgus grampianensis</i>	Dairy Creek Austropyrgus Snail	L	
<i>Hyridella glenelgensis</i>	Glenelg Freshwater Mussel	L	
<i>Notopala sublineata</i>	river snail	L	

### Endangered

<i>Pernagera gatliffi</i>	land snail	L	
<i>Victaphanta compacta</i>	Otway Black Snail	L	

### Vulnerable

<i>Allocharopa erskinensis</i>	land snail	L	
<i>Bassethullia glypta</i>	chiton	L	
<i>Geminoropa scindocataracta</i>	land snail	L	
<i>Platydorid galbana</i>	marine opisthobranch	L	
<i>Rhodope species</i>	marine opisthobranch	L	

## Phylum Annelida (annelid worms)

### Endangered

<i>Megascolides australis</i>	Gippsland Giant Earthworm	L	VU
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## Phylum Arthropoda–Subphylum Crustacea (crustaceans)

### Extinct

<i>Crenoicus mixtus</i>	phreatoicid isopod		
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### Critically Endangered

<i>Engaeus sternalis</i>	Warragul Burrowing Cray	L	
<i>Engaeus urostrictus</i>	Dandenong Burrowing Cray	L	
<i>Gramastacus insolitus</i>	Western Swamp Cray	L	

### Endangered

<i>Austrogammarus australis</i>	Dandenong Freshwater Amphipod	L	
<i>Engaeus curvisuturus</i>	Curve-tail Burrowing Cray	L	
<i>Engaeus hemircirratulus</i>	Gippsland Burrowing Cray		

## Subphylum Crustacea (crustaceans) (cont.)

**Endangered (cont.)**

<i>Engaeus karnanga</i>	South Gippsland Burrowing Cray	
<i>Engaeus merosetosus</i>	Western Burrowing Cray	
<i>Engaeus phyllocercus</i>	Narracan Burrowing Cray	L
<i>Engaeus rostrigaleatus</i>	Strzelecki Burrowing Cray	L
<i>Engaeus tuberculatus</i>	Tubercle Burrowing Cray	
<i>Engaeus victoriensis</i>	Foothill Burrowing Cray	
<i>Euastacus bispinosus</i>	Glenelg River Spiny Cray	L
<i>Euastacus crassus</i>	Alpine Spiny Cray	L
<i>Euastacus diversus</i>	Orbost Spiny Cray	L
<i>Euastacus neodiversus</i>	South Gippsland Spiny Cray	L
<i>Geocharax falcata</i>	Western Cray	
<i>Geocharax gracilis</i>	Otways Cray	

**Vulnerable**

<i>Athanopsis australis</i>	Southern Hooded Shrimp	L
<i>Australatya striolata</i>	Eastern Freshwater Shrimp	L
<i>Austrogammarus haasei</i>	Sherbrooke Amphipod	L
<i>Calamoecia australica</i>	calanoid copepod	
<i>Calamoecia expansa</i>	centropagid copepod	
<i>Canthocamptus dedeckeri</i>	harpactacoid copepod	
<i>Colubotelson joyneri</i>	phreatoicid isopod	
<i>Colubotelson searli</i>	phreatoicid isopod	
<i>Engaeus australis</i>	Lilly Pilly Burrowing Cray	I
<i>Engaeus fultoni</i>	Otway Burrowing Cray	
<i>Engaeus mallacoota</i>	Mallacoota Burrowing Cray	L
<i>Engaeus sericatus</i>	Hairy Burrowing Cray	
<i>Engaeus strictifrons</i>	Portland Burrowing Cray	
<i>Euastacus bidawalus</i>	East Gippsland Spiny Cray	
<i>Euastacus claytoni</i>	Clayton's Spiny Cray	
<i>Euastacus yanga</i>	Variable Spiny Cray	
<i>Eucalliax tooradin</i>	ghost shrimp	L
<i>Gariwerdeus beehivensis</i>	phreatoicid isopod	
<i>Gariwerdeus ingletonensis</i>	phreatoicid isopod	
<i>Gariwerdeus turrentensis</i>	phreatoicid isopod	
<i>Michelea microphylla</i>	ghost shrimp	L
<i>Naiopegia xiphagrostis</i>	phreatoicid isopod	
<i>Phreatoicopsis raffae</i>	phreatoicid isopod	
<i>Phreatoicopsis terricola</i>	phreatoicid isopod	
<i>Synamphisopus ambiguus</i>	phreatoicid isopod	
<i>Synamphisopus doegi</i>	phreatoicid isopod	

**Near Threatened**

<i>Euastacus armatus</i>	Murray River Spiny Cray	L
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## Subphylum Crustacea (crustaceans) (cont.)

### Data Deficient

<i>Boeckella nyoraensis</i>	calanoid copepod		
<i>Canthocamptus longipes</i>	harpactacoid copepod		
<i>Canthocamptus mammillifurca</i>	harpactacoid copepod		
<i>Canthocamptus sublaevis</i>	harpactacoid copepod		
<i>Cherax destructor albidus</i>	Common Yabby subspecies		
<i>Fibulacamptus gracilior</i>	harpactacoid copepod		
<i>Miralona victoriensis</i>	cladoceran		

## Phylum Arthropoda–Subphylum Uniramia–Class Insecta (insects)

### Regionally Extinct

<i>Heteronympha cordace wilsoni</i>	Western Bright-eyed Brown	L	
<i>Hypocysta adiante</i>	Orange Ringlet	L	
<i>Ogyris idmo halmaturia</i>	Large Bronze Azure	L	
<i>Synemon theresa</i>	Cryptic Sun Moth	L	
<i>Xylocopa aeratus</i>	Metallic Green Carpenter Bee	L	

### Critically Endangered

<i>Acrodipsas myrmecophila</i>	Small Ant-blue	L	
<i>Candalides heathi</i> 'Wimmera form'	Rayed Blue (Lake Wyn Wyn subspecies)	L	
<i>Leptoperla kallistae</i>	Kallista Flightless Stonefly	L	
<i>Ogyris otanes</i>	Small Bronze Azure	L	
<i>Peronomyrmex bartoni</i>	ant	L	
<i>Riekoperla darlingtoni</i>	Mount Donna Buang Stonefly	L	
<i>Riekoperla isosceles</i>	stonefly	L	
<i>Synemon discalis</i>	Small Orange-spotted Sun Moth		
<i>Synemon jcara</i>	Reddish-orange Sun Moth		
<i>Synemon nais</i>	Orange Sun Moth	L	
<i>Synemon plana</i>	Golden Sun Moth	L	CR
<i>Synemon selene</i>	Pale Sun Moth		
<i>Tanjistomella verna</i>	caddisfly		
<i>Triaenodes vespertina</i>	caddisfly		

### Endangered

<i>Acrodipsas brisbanensis cyrilis</i>	Large Ant-blue	L	
<i>Antipodia atralba</i>	Diamond Sand-skipper	L	
<i>Caliagrion billinghursti</i>	Large Riverdamsel		
<i>Hemiphlebia mirabilis</i>	Ancient Greenling	L	
<i>Marteena rubricincta</i>	Large Yellow-spotted Cicada		
<i>Oreixenica latialis theddora</i>	Small Alpine Xenica	L	
<i>Paralucia pyrodiscus lucida</i>	Eltham Copper	L	
<i>Riekoperla intermedia</i>	stonefly	L	
<i>Theclinessthes albocincta</i>	Bitterbush Blue	L	
<i>Trapezites luteus luteus</i>	Yellow Ochre	L	

## Class Insecta (insects) (cont.)

**Vulnerable**

<i>Antiporus williamsi</i>	aquatic beetle	
<i>Arachnocampa</i> species	Mount Buffalo Glow-worm	L
<i>Austroaeschna flavomaculata</i>	Alpine Darner	
<i>Dinotoperla walkeri</i>	stonefly	
<i>Ecnomus neboissi</i>	caddisfly	
<i>Ecnomus nibbor</i>	caddisfly	
<i>Hesperilla flavescens flavescens</i>	Yellow Sedge-skipper	L
<i>Hygrobia australasiae</i>	aquatic beetle	L
<i>Hypochrysops ignita ignita</i>	Fiery Jewel	L
<i>Jalmenus icilius</i>	Amethyst Hairstreak	L
<i>Leptocerus souta</i>	caddisfly	
<i>Myrmecia</i> species (17)	bullant	L
<i>Notomicrus tenellus</i>	aquatic beetle	
<i>Notoperata sparsa</i>	caddisfly	
<i>Oecetis quadrula</i>	caddisfly	
<i>Ogyris genoveva araxes</i>	Southern Purple Azure	L
<i>Ogyris subterrestris subterrestris</i>	Mildura Ogyris	L
<i>Pasma tasmanica</i>	Two-spotted Grass-skipper	
<i>Plectrotarsus gravenhorstii</i>	caddisfly	
<i>Pseudalmenus chlorinda fisheri</i>	Silky Hairstreak	I
<i>Pseudocloeon hypodelum</i>	mayfly	
<i>Ramiheithrus virgatus</i>	caddisfly	
<i>Tamasia furcilla</i>	caddisfly	
<i>Taskiria otwayensis</i>	caddisfly	L
<i>Telicota eurychlora</i>	Southern Sedge-darter	L
<i>Thaumatoperla alpina</i>	Alpine Stonefly	L
<i>Thaumatoperla flaveola</i>	Mount Stirling Stonefly	L
<i>Themognatha flavocincta</i>	jewel beetle	
<i>Themognatha maculiventris</i>	jewel beetle	
<i>Themognatha sanguinipennis</i>	jewel beetle	
<i>Themognatha tricolorata</i>	jewel beetle	
<i>Triaenodes cuspidata</i>	caddisfly	
<i>Triaenodes resima</i>	caddisfly	
<i>Triaenodes uvida</i>	caddisfly	
<i>Westriplectes angelae</i>	caddisfly	
<i>Westriplectes pedderensis</i>	caddisfly	
<i>Wundacaenis flabellum</i>	mayfly	

**Near Threatened**

<i>Austrolestes aridus</i>	Inland Ringtail	
<i>Austropetalia tonyana</i>	Alpine Redspot	
<i>Coenagrion lyelli</i>	Swamp Bluet	
<i>Eusthenia nothofagi</i>	Otway Stonefly	D
<i>Hecatesia exultans</i>	Small Whistling Moth	
<i>Orphinotrichia justini</i>	caddisfly	

## Class Insecta (insects) (cont.)

### Data Deficient

<i>Acrodipsas aurata</i>	Bronze Ant-blue	
<i>Antipodia chaostola chares</i>	Heath Sand-skipper	
<i>Archaeophylax canarus</i>	caddisfly	L
<i>Austrogomphus angelorum</i>	Murray River Hunter	
<i>Candalides absimilis</i> subspecies	Common Pencil-blue	
<i>Castiarina cyanipes</i>	jewel beetle	
<i>Castiarina insularis</i>	jewel beetle	
<i>Castiarina jekelli</i>	jewel beetle	
<i>Castiarina militaris</i>	jewel beetle	
<i>Castiarina mimus</i>	jewel beetle	
<i>Dendroaeschna conspersa</i>	Wide-faced Darner	
<i>Donuca spectabilis</i>	White-spotted Owl Moth	
<i>Ecnomus karakoi</i>	caddisfly	
<i>Ecnomus karawalla</i>	caddisfly	
<i>Griseargiolestes eboracus</i>	Grey-chested Flatwing	
<i>Hesperilla mastersi mastersi</i>	Chequered Sedge-skipper	
<i>Hestiochora rufiventris</i>	forester moth	
<i>Hestiochora tricolor</i>	forester moth	
<i>Notalina gungarra</i>	caddisfly	
<i>Oecetis asmanista</i>	caddisfly	
<i>Oecetis parka</i>	caddisfly	
<i>Perelytrana rana</i>	Grassland Froghopper	
<i>Thaumatoperla robusta</i>	stonefly	
<i>Thaumatoperla timmsi</i>	stonefly	
<i>Themognatha barbiventris</i>	jewel beetle	
<i>Themognatha congener</i>	jewel beetle	
<i>Themognatha duboulayi</i>	jewel beetle	
<i>Themognatha fortnumi</i>	jewel beetle	
<i>Themognatha pascoei</i>	jewel beetle	
<i>Themognatha sanguinea</i>	jewel beetle	

## Phylum Echinodermata (starfish, sea cucumbers)

### Vulnerable

<i>Amphiura triscacantha</i>	brittle star	L
<i>Apsolidium densum</i>	sea-cucumber	L
<i>Apsolidium falconeri</i>	sea-cucumber	
<i>Apsolidium handrecki</i>	sea-cucumber	L
<i>Ophiocomina australis</i>	brittle star	L
<i>Pentocnus bursatus</i>	sea-cucumber	L
<i>Thyone nigra</i>	sea-cucumber	L
<i>Trochodota shepherdii</i>	sea-cucumber	L