Kultarr Trapping and Tracking at Diamantina

The project aims to characterise better the habitat requirements of the small (25 g) Kultarr (*Antechinomys laniger*), a rare, arid zone, dasyurid marsupial. To this end we will drive to the Diamantina in far western Queensland.
There, we will attempt to catch Kultarrs in Elliot traps. Generally success rates are around about one capture per 1000 trap nights, so with 125 traps we may be there a while before we get any!

Luckily, there should be Nat Parks staff in the area catching and studying Kowaris, a larger dasyurid living in the same places. Sometimes they catch kultarrs in their traps (they have 250 traps), so if we get there in time, we could use their “bycatch”.

The idea then is to attach transmitters to the animals and see where the go. Because the radios are so small, the range is limited, so following them may require staying close all night. Once out of range they may be hard to relocate during their activity period. Sometimes, this requires a degree of commitment!
Once we know where they have been, we will characterise their habitat: i.e. vegetation structure etc. This may not necessarily be too arduous!

As for accommodation, it will be basic camping, I'm afraid; but the camp site is not too bad.
And, ... we might get a chance to snooze during the day. The cuisine is, well, basic.

But seriously, we do have fun out there and it’s great to get away from Brisbane for a while.

So, if you fancy it, drop me a line at fruitbat@uqconnect.net

Peter Brice

Thanks to Sally Green and Janette Donovan for these photos