

# What's that scat?

## Koala scat identification

Koalas produce little poo pellets, also known as scat, 24 hours a day – even when they're asleep. They can produce up to 360 pellets a day. Identifying Koala scat can provide valuable information about the diet and health of Koalas. Here are some key characteristics to help you identify Koala scat.

- 1 Shape and size:** Koala scat typically resembles small, elongated pellets. The shape can vary, but they are generally smooth and cylindrical. The size can range from around 1 to 2 centimetres in length.
  - 2 Colour:** Fresh Koala scat is usually dark green to brown, reflecting their leafy diet. Over time, the colour can change as the scat dries out and weathers, turning lighter or fading to a greyish colour.
  - 3 Texture:** Koala scat has a fibrous texture due to the high content of undigested plant material. It often contains partially digested Eucalyptus leaves, which are the primary food source for Koalas.
  - 4 Odour:** Koala scat has a strong distinctive Eucalyptus odour.
  - 5 Location:** Koala scats are typically found at the base of trees they inhabit. Look for scat in areas where Koalas are known to be present, such as Eucalyptus forests or areas with Koala populations.
- Hint:** Koala scat can be easily confused with Brushtail Possum scat. The key differences are the shape, smell and content. Brushtail Possum scat will often be slightly smaller in size (approx. 1.5cm) with a strong musky odour.

When trying to identify Koala scat, it's important to consider other factors as well, such as the habitat, location, and presence of Koalas in the area. If you're uncertain about the identification or need further confirmation, it's always a good idea to consult with local wildlife experts or researchers who have experience studying Koalas.

