Progress Report STP 2017-016 (FY 2016-2017)

# Cyclones, termites and fire: The environmental drivers of tree hollow abundance in northern Australian tropical savanna

**Ecosystem Science**

## Project Core Team

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## Project status as of Sept. 12, 2017, 4:16 p.m.

Update requested

## Document endorsements and approvals as of Sept. 12, 2017, 4:16 p.m.

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| **Project Team** | granted |
| **Program Leader** | required |
| **Directorate** | required |

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I Radford

## Progress Report

200 nest boxes were established along a 100 km transect and a rainfall gradient on the Cobourg Peninsula, NT. Boxes with camera traps were assessed for rates of occupancy. Surveys of tree hollows around nest boxes were used to create a landscape hollow context. Radio-tracking was conducted in remnant bushland near Darwin to evaluate appropriate methods for identifying den sites (e.g. individual trees and hollows) of brushtail possums and black-footed tree-rats. The results of this study will guide a larger study to be undertaken in 2017 by the PhD student. Analysis of a large, existing dataset of tree hollow availability across the Top End of the Northern Territory has also commenced to write-up. A draft manuscript has been submitted to co-authors and pre-submission revisions are underway. These results will underpin a modelling analysis to predict the likely consequences of prescribed burning regimes on the abundance of tree hollows in the savannas.