




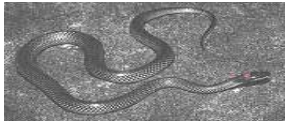












































REPTILES OF MYALL PARK BOTANIC GARDEN

PYTHONS	
<p>Carpet Python <i>Morelia spilota variegata</i> 170 - 230 cm. Yellow-tan pattern on a black base, pure-white underside. Not thick-bodied. Head likened to dragon's head, tail prehensile. Nocturnal - feeding, shedding, and generally most active by night. Kill prey by constriction, suffocating with ever-tightening coils. Most find prey through heat-sensory pits along the lower lips able to detect minute temperature changes. Distinguished from all other Australian land snakes by numerous rows of mid-body scales. Usually 8 eggs. Large, backward-curving solid teeth. Non-venomous.</p>	
<p>Woma Python <i>Aspidites ramsayi</i> 150 cm. Grey, olive brown, or rich reddish brown above, sides often lighter. Numerous darker olive, brown to black crossbands. Old specimens often lack these bands. Head often bright orange-yellow, some juveniles may have black patches. Throat and belly yellow to cream with pink or brown blotches. Thick-bodied, head indistinct from neck. Commonly found in sandy localities and often referred to as "Sand Python". Shelters in hollow logs and animal burrows. Terrestrial, feeds on reptiles and mammals. 6 to 8 eggs per clutch. Few natural predators. Inoffensive. Status rare and endangered.</p>	
COLUBRIDS - Back Fanged, Solid Toothed Snakes	
<p>Green Tree Snake <i>Dendrelaphis punctulatus</i> Up to 200 cm. Colour varies geographically from greys to greens, blues, browns, black or yellows. Usually skin between scales is green. Scales smooth. Very fast moving. Found along coasts and nearby areas of N and E Australia. Strictly diurnal, forages on ground and in vegetation, feeding on small vertebrates, particularly frogs. When inactive, usually found under ground cover, in tree hollows or rock crevices. Winter aggregations of up to 6 individuals are quite common, will aggregate with other snake species. About 8 eggs laid mid summer, hatching 60-80 days later. Hatchlings 30 cm. Sometimes also releases a strong odour from anal glands. Harmless, but will inflate forepart of body and hiss when threatened, revealing blue skin between the scales.</p>	
ELAPIDS - Front fanged snakes (venomous snakes)	
<p>Yellow-faced Whip Snake <i>Demansia psammophis</i> 65-100 cm. Colours variable - greys, greens, yellows, often with reddish markings running along the back. Very slender. Large eyes. Found in most parts of mainland. All types of habitat. Swift moving, diurnal, actively chases prey (mostly lizards). When inactive hides under ground litter such as rocks, logs, bark. During colder months adult pairs commonly found together, up to five specimens commonly found in single site. Breeding males combat, twisting and biting. 3 to 9 eggs in summer, often laid communally, 8-9 weeks to hatching, hatchlings 15 cm. Treat with caution, bites can cause painful local swelling.</p>	
<p>De Vis Banded Snake <i>Denisonia devisii</i> 24 cm. Yellowish brown to olive, with irregular dark, narrow bands across body. Short, thick, slightly flat. Sluggish. Occurs on alluvial flats in mid-eastern interior of Australia. Gives birth to fully-formed young. By day shelters in cavities eg soil cracks. Eats only frogs. Differs from death adder as tail does not taper and head is not broad and triangular. Little known.</p>	
<p>Red-naped Snake <i>Furina diadema</i> 40 cm. Reddish brown above and white below. Head dark, long, triangular, red spot on nape. Body slender, tail narrow, tapering to a point. Scales large, glossy with black showing at edges. Active at dusk. Found in all types of habitat, by day under ground litter, at night frequently cross roads. Often seen inside termite mounds, though do not feed on termites (essentially a skink feeder). Mate in cooler months, 1-5 eggs produced in summer. Hatchlings measure about 8 cm. Common. Will strike, but rarely bite. Virtually harmless.</p>	
<p>Grey Snake <i>Hemiaspis damelii</i> To 50 cm. Grey to greyish-brown body, cream belly. Dark band behind head. Matt-textured, large dark eyes. Nocturnal. Shelters during the day under fallen timber and in soil cracks. Nocturnal, eats frogs. Young born fully formed. Common on flood plains of Brigalow Belt, but range is limited and threatened by continued land clearing thus listed as endangered. Weakly venomous.</p>	
<p>Pale-headed Snake <i>Hoplocephalus bitorquatus</i> To 75 cm. Matt-textured, dark grey patternless body. Head broad, pale grey with pale and dark bands. Nocturnal, by day lives in tree hollows or under loose bark. Eats frogs, geckoes, small mammals. Climbs trees including smooth-barked gums, also travels on the ground seeking prey. Widespread in mid-eastern coast and interior of Australia. Live bearer (5-10 young). Common. Aggressive if provoked, potentially dangerous.</p>	
<p>King Brown or Mulga Snake <i>Pseudechis australis</i> 2 m+. Brown to reddish brown, scales usually darker near tips giving an overall net-like pattern. Belly cream to pink and patternless. Head broad, slightly flattened. Extends over wide area of north, centre and west, with eastern limit in Southern Brigalow Belt. Despite name, is not a true brown but is related to black snakes. Active by day or night depending on weather. Food varies, includes frogs, small lizards, small mammals. Egg layer. Dangerous.</p>	

<p>Blue-bellied Black Snake, spotted black snake <i>Pseudechis guttatus</i> 1.5 m. Back black, dark grey or occasionally light brown, often with scattered paler spots. Belly grey or blue-grey or brownish. Occurs in open black-soil plains and downs, in eucalypt forests and woodlands, grasslands, pasture and cropped lands. Active by day and night. Eats frogs, lizards, snakes and small mammals. Egg-layer (7-13). Common. Dangerous.</p>	
<p>Eastern Brown Snake <i>Pseudonaja textiles</i> 200 cm. Colour very variable. Adults - back any shade of brown, sometimes black or dark grey, occasionally banded. Belly cream with pink or orange flecks or blotches. Young have red or orange band separating head from matt black band on neck. Narrow, black body bands often present. Widespread in E Australia in all habitats except rainforest. Well-adapted to farmed, grazed and semi-urban lands. Active by day, although young are often encountered at night. Eats frogs, birds, reptiles and mammals. Egg layer. Shy if ignored, aggressive if provoked. Common. Dangerous.</p>	
<p>Carpentaria Snake <i>Rhinoplocephalus boschmai</i> 50 cm. Lives under rocks, fallen timber and cracks in the ground. Gives birth to 3 to 6 young. Eats mainly small lizards and snakes. Mildly venomous.</p>	
<p>Australian Coral Snake <i>Brachyuophis australis</i> 24 cm. Short, robust. Coral pink with black blotch on head, broad black band across neck, narrow bands of cream-centred, dark-edged scales across body and tail. Occurs in dry to arid zones of E Australia, uncommon E of Southern Brigalow Belt. Secretive, burrows deep into soil cracks. Often seen on roads at night or uncovered by ploughing. Diet unusual – almost exclusively lizard eggs, occasionally whole lizard. Egg layer.</p>	
<p>Curl or Myall Snake <i>Suta suta</i> 50 cm. Generally brownish, with reddish or other tinges. Found in most drier parts. Gets its name from defensive posture - flattens body into a rigid spring-like curve from which it strikes if necessary. Terrestrial, nocturnal. By day found under ground litter, at night commonly found crossing roads. Opportunistic feeder, mostly small lizards and small mammals. 2-7 live young produced in summer.</p>	
<p>LIZARDS</p>	
<p>GECKOES</p>	
<p>Golden-tailed Gecko <i>Strophurus taenicauda</i> 15 cm. White to pale grey, marked with network of small black blotches over head, body and limbs. Bright orange blaze down tail. Eyes large, red, pupil vertically elliptical. Fingers and toes have broad pads. Occurs only in Brigalow belt. Likes dry open forests and woodlands. Tree dweller, shelters in hollow limbs and loose bark, occasionally under fallen logs and bark, in meter boxes. Do not handle - secretes sticky irritant fluid from pores along top of tail. Rare.</p>	
<p>Spiny-tailed Gecko <i>Diplodactylus williamsi</i> Up to 12 cm. Found throughout drier parts of eastern Australia. Tail has rows of spines which exude a sticky fluid when alarmed. A tree dweller, it is usually located during the day resting under loose bark, in upright hollow logs or occasionally under rocks.</p>	
<p>Steindachner's Gecko <i>Diplodactylus steindachneri</i> 9 cm. Light background with attractive pattern of brown/russet splotches. Found throughout most of inland NSW and most parts of Qld. Occupies all types of habitat except wet forests. Terrestrial, usually found active in open spaces at night. By day it shelters eg in abandoned insect burrows, cracked mud in floodways. Breeding biology is not known.</p>	
<p>Tesselated Gecko <i>Diplodactylus tessellatus</i> 5 cm. Robust, Grey to reddish brown above with variable pattern of darker mottling, often including pale spots. Dark blotches usually present on belly. Shelters in soil cracks, insect & spider holes in cracking alluvial clay. Near threatened.</p>	
<p>Wood Gecko <i>Diplodactylus vittatus</i> 8 cm. Greyish brown with broad, pale, zigzag stripe running down back and tail. Juveniles usually black. Tail thick, fleshy. Fingers and toes have small pads. Common throughout SE Australia. Ground dweller, usually found by day under cover such as rocks, logs, etc. In forest areas prefers exposed places eg large flat rock outcrops, usually rock on rock (as opposed to rock on dirt). At night prefers to forage in open spaces for insects on ground. Limited climbing ability.</p>	
<p>Dtella 7 cm. Found throughout most drier parts of Australia. Arboreal, found along rivers and in forests. In rocky areas lives among the rock outcrops, sometimes in very high population densities. Will enter houses and in country towns commonly found around streetlights feeding on insects at night.</p>	

<p>House gecko <i>Gehyra dubia</i> 15 cm. By day, pale grey/brown/beige with thin black stripes, white beneath. Eyes bronze. By night, appears grey-pink without patterns. Fingers and toes have large circular pads with prominent claw. Nocturnal. This is the common house gecko widespread in eastern Australia. Outside human environment is a tree dweller. Eggs round, brittle shelled.</p>	
<p>Bynoe's Gecko <i>Heteronotia binoei</i> 7 cm. Colour highly variable, ranging from whites, reds, browns, greys, black, <i>with or without</i> flecks and/or colour pattern. Found throughout Australia except for far SE and far SW. Possibly the most abundant gecko in Australia, occupying all habitats, often found in very large numbers. A principal food source for many other species of reptile, most specimens are found by day hiding under any sort of ground cover. Terrestrial. Feeds on insects at night.</p>	
<p>Eyed velvet gecko <i>Oedura monolis</i> 15 –20 cm. Beautiful iridescent velvety skin, dark grey-brown overall with pale dots, strips and ocelli (spots of colour inside a ring of another colour) on back and tail. This patterning is beige or pale red in adults, bright yellow in juveniles. Found in dry areas and can go for months without food or water. Tree or rock dweller. Flat body form allows it to hide under peeling bark or in crevices.</p>	
<p>LEGLLESS LIZARDS</p>	
<p>Burton's legless lizard <i>Lialis burtonis</i> 60 cm. Colour varies – reds, browns, olives, grays, black. Can be plain or highly patterned. Head distinct, elongated, wedge shaped. Found in low vegetation, leaf litter or debris. Active day and night, though mostly day feeding. Swallows prey whole, mostly lizards and skinks. Egg layer – 1 – 3 eggs spring –midsummer.</p>	
<p>Hooded Scaly-foot <i>Pygopus nigriceps</i> 45 to 55 cm. Brownish, dull in colour. Occurs in all parts of Australia except wettest parts of southern states. Easily distinguished by "hood" covering nape region. All types of habitat, feeds on most available insects, small reptiles, some plants. Feeds day or night according to weather.</p>	
<p>Excitable Delma <i>Delma tincta</i> 30 cm. Often has dark head markings, similar to young venomous Brown Snakes <i>Pseudonaja</i> spp. This adaptation possibly deters potential predators from attacking. Found throughout northern two thirds of Australia in all types of habitats from rainforests to treeless deserts. Mainly nocturnal. By day, shelters under rocks, logs. At night, commonly seen crossing roads. Rarely caught as it will stand up on its tail and jump away at high speed. Presumed to be insectivorous, little known.</p>	
<p>Brigalow Scaly foot <i>Paradelma orientalis</i> 30 cm. Body grey to grey-brown, head yellowish cream, dark band on neck. Smooth with a milky sheen. Heavy-set, slow moving. Appears legless and snake-like, but retains hind limbs as small scaly flaps. Fleshy tongued. Likes open forests and woodlands, especially ironbark, cypress, brigalow, bull oak. Shelters under rocks, logs, bark and debris. Nocturnal. Climbs small trees. If provoked, mimics snake by rearing head, flicking tongue. Harmless. Status vulnerable.</p>	
<p>DRAGONS</p>	
<p>Eastern Water Dragon <i>Physignathus lesueurii</i> 65 cm, males up to 90 cm. Pale to dark yellowish brown or grey, dark bars over back. Broad black stripe from eye to side of neck. Tail banded. Belly dull to bright red in adult males. Juveniles lack bright adult colours. Found E coast from S of Sydney to Cape York on rocks, logs or branches by water. Shelters in burrows, crevices, hollow limbs, also common in built up areas. Often sleeps on exposed surfaces in warm weather. Fighting between males during the breeding season is common. Males appear to be territorial, controlling all females within a given territory. Will often drop out of a tree into water below when disturbed. Diet mixed. 10 eggs laid in summer in well-concealed locations, hatch after 80 days.</p>	
<p>Bearded Dragon <i>Pogona barbata</i> 25 cm. Usually drab grey, but breeding males develop black beards. Spiny scales scattered over back and arranged in rows on sides. Sometimes confused with or mis-identified as Frill-necked Lizard. Found in wooded parts of Eastern Australia, including cleared areas, except for very cool regions and Cape York. Terrestrial and semi-arboreal. Usually seen when active or basking during the day. Eats beetles, flowers and other vegetable matter. Males often compete for mates by vicious tail-biting. Use various forms of head bobbing and other movements to communicate. Breeding begins with warm weather. Egg-layer, sometimes producing more than one clutch per season.</p>	
<p>MONITORS (GOANNAS)</p>	
<p>Black-tailed monitor, freckled monitor <i>Varanus tristis</i> To 100 cm. Slender, known as "Racehorse goanna". Varies in colour from pale to dark grey or dark brown. Pale, dark-centred ocelli ("freckles") over body and base of tail, but may be faint or absent. Moves swiftly, more timid than larger species. Leaves a very distinctive track as tail base is dragged along the ground. Arboreal, but also common in rocky crevices. Climb trees looking for food. Eat other lizards as well as baby birds (and probably bird eggs as well.) Activity is highly seasonal, rely on building up fat reserves during times of plenty to survive lean periods.</p>	

<p>Lace Monitor or Tree Goanna <i>Varanus varius</i> To 175 cm. 2 different colour types in this region. 1. (More common type) Dark grey to black, numerous rows of small pale spots across back and tail base. Rest of tail has broad, widely spaced bands. Throat pale with broad dark bands. 2. (Banded type) broad, pale yellowish brown and dark brown bands on body and tail. Throat plain. Largest lizard in this region. Widespread in E Qld, E NSW and most of Vic occurring wherever there are trees. Common in many areas from rainforest to drier woodlands. Very active, searches for food both in trees and on ground. When threatened takes shelter in nearest tree, hides on the opposite side of the trunk to the aggressor. Ritual combat occurs in the typical bipedal manner. Shelter in burrows or tree hollows. Eggs laid exclusively in active termite nests either on ground or in trees. It is said females return to dig out hatchlings 8-9 months later and use the same incubation mound regularly.</p>	
<p>Sand Goanna <i>Varanus gouldii</i> Up to 160 cm, males larger than females. Very similar to <i>V. panoptes</i> (see below). Yellowish brown with dark, pale-edged stripe through eye. Clustered pale yellow spots on back, narrow pale bands on most of tail but lower end is plain. Throat pale, grey streaks. Heavily built, powerful. Often stand erect, either in response to a threat or to gain a better vantage point. Found over most of Australia. Eat small mammals, insects, other reptiles and their eggs, frogs, crabs, birds, refuse, carrion. Mostly ground dwelling, lay eggs in burrows, rarely climb trees.</p>	
<p>Yellow-spotted Monitor <i>Varanus panoptes</i> To 160 cm. Round yellow spots arranged in rows across body, narrow bands on tail sometimes extend to tip. Throat pale, black spots. Widespread in N Australia. Usually heavier than <i>V. gouldii</i> but the two species very similar (see above).</p>	
SKINKS	
<p>Striped skink <i>Ctenotus sp.</i> 20 cm. Boldly patterned with longitudinal stripes. Swift. Forage among leaf-litter and low vegetation, very timid. Eat mainly insects, spiders, also smaller lizards. Egg layer.</p>	
<p>Rainbow skink <i>Carlia vivax</i> - 47 cm. Slender & long tailed. Sexes differ, Female, juv and non breeding male – greyish brown with 2 dorsal series of dark and pale dashes. Breeding male - reddish orange lateral flush or broad stripe. Found Cape York to Singeton. Woodlands & heaths on hard, stony or sandy soils.</p>	
<p>Tree Skink <i>Egernia striolata</i> 25 cm. Dark brown to grey with scattered pale flecks. Pale streak from shoulder to mid back, dark upper flanks. Lip scales often paler. Found throughout inland eastern Australia and the coast of Qld, associated with standing or fallen timber. Often seen basking close to shelter. Diet is mixed. Produces 2-3 live young measuring 6 cm.</p>	
<p>Yakka Skink <i>Egernia rugosa</i> To 45 cm. Brown with broad, darker brown to black zone on back. Generally little known, scattered populations through interior of E Qld. Lives in shared communal burrows often numbering 50 or more individuals of mixed ages. Presence often indicated by shared site where droppings are deposited. Prefers sandy or rocky areas. Shy and rapidly takes cover. Eats plant material, insects and other soft bodied animals. 2 to 5 live young are produced, more brightly coloured than adults.</p>	
<p>Burnett's skink <i>Carlia foliorum</i> 3.9 cm snout-vent. Brown to greyish brown, with fine white peppering on flanks and dark flecks or bars on lips. Breeding females have pinkish orange throat, hindlimbs and tail. Occurs in dry sclerophyll forests Townsville – Sydney. Sunlover. Lays clutches of 2 eggs.</p>	
<p>Wall skink, fence skink <i>Cryptoblepharus carnabyi</i> 11 cm. Small tree dweller, found in a large arc across semi-arid and tropical Australia. Lives amongst rocks and fallen timber. The female lays 2 eggs per clutch.</p>	
<p>A burrowing skink <i>Lerista muelleri</i> 13 cm. Found in most parts of arid Australia and adjoining areas in all types of habitat and under loose ground litter in the winter months. Becomes active at dusk during summer, when it may be seen moving around on the ground surface. Believed to be insectivorous.</p>	

<p>A burrowing skink <i>Lerista punctatovittata</i> 10 cm. Pale fawn or brown with lines of spots. Burrowing lizard emerging after rain from under logs and stones. Common, likes good litter cover.</p>	
<p>Eastern mulch slider <i>Lerista fragilis</i> 11.5 cm. Olive brown to greyish brown with 4 narrow lines of dark dashes on back, and narrow dark stripe on upper side. Tail often flushed with red, especially in juvenile. Common in dry eastern interior of Qld, usually in sandy woodland areas. Shelters in soil under rocks, logs, leaf litter. Eats invertebrates. Egg layer.</p>	
<p>A fire-tailed skink <i>Morethia boulengeri</i> 10 cm. Dark. Males often have a reddish colour under neck. Occurs throughout most of Qld, NSW, Victoria, SA and adjacent areas. Found in a variety of habitats, most common in grassy, open woodland habitats. Eats small insects. Its biology is little known. ✓</p>	
<p>Narrow-banded Sand Swimmer <i>Eremiascincus fasciolatus</i> 9.3 snout – vent. Flesh pink to reddish brown with or without pattern of narrow dark bands between nape and hips. 4 moderately well-developed limbs, each with 5 digits. Crepuscular to nocturnal, foraging for arthropods on surface, but “swimming” easily through loose sand when pursued. Arid zones of all mainland states except Vic. Favours sandy areas with spinifex, shelters under thick leaf litter, in loose sand under vegetation and in disused burrows. Egg layer.</p>	
<p>Eastern Blue-tongued Lizard <i>Tiliqua scincoides</i> 30 cm. World’s largest skink. Body and tail have alternate dark and pale bands. Robust, slow moving. Thick, pointed tail, shorter than the body. Limbs relatively short. Smooth scales. Widely distributed in Australia. Diurnal, ground-dwelling, shelters in tree hollows and ground debris at night. When disturbed it gapes, sticks out blue tongue and inflates body, hissing loudly. This effective defense mechanism deters many intruders. Eats plant and animal matter including insects, snails, carrion, flowers, fruit and berries. Produces 18-25 live young in summer. Harmless, but bite can be painful. ✓</p>	
<p>Shingle-back Lizard <i>Trachydosaurus rugosus</i> +30 cm. Dark, covered with raised scales. Tongue dark blue. Tail broad, blunt, similar in shape to head. Found in arid regions of inland Australia in a wide range of habitats. Diurnal, when not active shelters under fallen timber, leaf litter and grasses. Mainly herbivorous, favours flowers, berries, succulent leaves, also spiders, insects, snails, carrion. Breeds in spring; same pairs form each year and produce 1-4 but usually 2 live young. As with blue-tongue, a nip can be painful. ✓</p>	
TURTLES	
<p>Broad-shelled Turtle <i>Chelodina expansa</i> 50 cm. Shell rich brown to dark black-brown, oval, broader at tail end. Throat lighter below. Largest long necked species with extremely long neck, flattened head. In this area, specimens known to make long overland journeys when it rains. Strikes at food in snakelike manner from coiled position. Eats frogs, aquatic insects, shrimps, fish. Large hard-shelled eggs laid in shallow nest near water in late summer/autumn. Hatchlings 3.5 cm in length emerge after almost 12 months.</p>	
<p>Eastern Long-neck Turtle <i>Chelodina longicollis</i> 20cm. Dark brown to black. Snake-like neck covered with pointed “tubercles” or knobs. Carapace smooth, oval, rather flat. Widely distributed SE Australia. Very hardy and able to tolerate lower temperatures than most other turtles of the genus. In colder regions of Australia may attempt to hibernate, and in warmer regions some will aestivate outside the water underneath leaf litter and wood during hot months. Carnivorous, Eat molluscs, small fish, amphibians, worms and insects. Known to travel long distances over land to find more suitable ponds and lakes during the dry season. Breed end of spring and lay up to 16 eggs in holes near water in summer.</p>	
<p>Murray River Turtle <i>Emydura macquarii</i> 30 cm. Shell olive brown or brown on top, often with orange rim, white or cream on underside. Generally quite flat and rounded. Skin usually grey. White or cream stripe from edge of mouth along each side of neck. Neck thick and short, roughly quarter the length of shell. Tail dark grey above, light grey below, much bigger and longer in male. Range restricted to Murray-Darling river systems, prefers 'main course' waterways. Eats fish, molluscs and crustaceans. About ten elongated eggs laid in spring and summer in a hole dug on ground adjacent to water. These hatch about 80 days later.</p>	