

REPTILES and AMPHIBIANS of the A.A.L.B.G.

May, 2014

The reptiles and amphibians found at the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden were recorded over the years firstly by a short survey done in February 1991, by persons unknown. This survey comprised of traversing the site on foot, observing and recording sightings of vertebrates. A line of pit fall traps was also set for one week in the chenopod plain and in the sand dunes area. Five mammal species were recorded, eleven reptile species and twenty one bird species. The reptiles recorded were:-

Gould's Goanna	<i>Varanus gouldii</i>
Bearded Dragon	<i>Pogona vitticeps</i>
Painted Dragon	<i>Ctenophorus pictus</i>
Sleepy Lizard	<i>Trachydosaurus rugosus = (Tiliqua rugosa aspera)</i>
Striped Skink	<i>Ctenotus regius</i>
Striped Skink	<i>Ctenotus brooksi = (Ctenotus taeniatus)</i>
Grey's Skink	<i>Menetia greyii</i>
Snake-eyed Skink	<i>Morethia adelaidensis</i>
Broad-banded Sandswimmer	<i>Eremiascincus richardsonii</i>
Smooth Knob-tailed Gecko	<i>Nephrurus levis</i>
Legless Lizard	<i>Delma nasuta = (Delma butleri)</i>

As you can see all reptiles recorded at this time are natives and some of their scientific names have also changed as can be seen in following list.

Since development work has commenced at the site more reptiles and amphibians have been observed and recorded. The common Bynoe's Gecko, Western Brown Snake and Mulga Snake, were of course noted as well as the Trilling Frog, the first amphibian recorded, which also appears on the next list of animals printed for the site. This list has 26 species recorded on it, 15 of them were new opportunistic records. Some were found whilst digging trenches or planting plants in the garden. This was the case for finding the Trilling Frog, a Slider, Blind Snakes and Yellow-faced Whip Snake. Others were found when removing plants, dead wood or litter, such as the 4 new Gecko's, another Slider, and Mallee Black-headed Snake. Some were found just moving around in the garden area. These include the Western Brown Snake, Mulga Snake, Striped Skinks and Western Blue Tongue lizard. A Thorny Devil was picked up on the road after it had been run over and no others seen for years later, but recently another one was found in the garden.

A biological survey was done over a period of 5 days and 4 nights by me in March, 2006. Two pit fall trap lines were used each consisting of six pits, placed at ten meter intervals and a sixty meter fly wire fence connecting the pits. Fifteen Elliot traps and two cage traps were laid around the pit lines. A trap line was placed in the chenopod plain and another in the sandhills. Manual searching for animals and spotlighting was undertaken on three days. From this survey only twelve reptile species were found, but one of them was new to the site, the Ringed Brown Snake and one amphibian, the Meeowing Frog or Painted Frog. In the latest literature the Western Brown Snake has been split into three species, the Northern Brown Snake, which retains the original scientific name. The Western Brown Snake, which has a new scientific name and the Strap-snouted Brown Snake. Both of the latter species are found at the A.A.L.B.G..

The A.A.L.B.G. reptiles and amphibians list now consists of :-

AMPHIBIANS

MYOBATRACHIDAE –

Meeowing Frog, Painted Frog
Trilling Frog

Neobatrachus pictus
Neobatrachus sudelli

REPTILES

GEKKONIDAE –

Tree Dtella	<i>Gehyra variegata</i>
Bynoe's Gecko	<i>Heteronotia binoei</i>
Beaded Gecko	<i>Lucasium damaeum</i>
Smooth Knob-tailed Gecko	<i>Nephrurus levis levis</i>
Eyre Basin Beaked Gecko	<i>Rhynchoedura eyrensis</i>

DIPLODACTYLIDAE –

Southern Spiny-tailed Gecko	<i>Strophurus intermedius</i>
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PYGOPODIDAE –

Legless Lizard	<i>Delma butleri</i>
Legless Lizard	<i>Delma mollerii</i>

SCINCIDAE –

Striped Skink	<i>Ctenotus leae</i>
Ribbon Ctenotus	<i>Ctenotus taeniatus</i>
Royal Ctenotus	<i>Ctenotus regius</i>
Sandplain Ctenotus	<i>Ctenotus schomburgkii</i>
Broad Banded Sand-swimmer	<i>Eremiascincus richardsonii</i>
Eastern Two-toed Slider	<i>Lerista labialis</i>
Three-toed Slider	<i>Lerista timida</i>
Grey's Skink	<i>Menetia greyii</i>
Snake-eyed Skink	<i>Morethia adelaidensis</i>
Western Blue Tongue	<i>Tiliqua occipitalis</i>
Sleepy Lizard, Shingleback	<i>Tiliqua rugosa aspera</i>

AGAMIDAE –

Painted Dragon	<i>Ctenophorus pictus</i>
Thorny Devil	<i>Moloch horridus</i>
Central Bearded Dragon	<i>Pogona vitticeps</i>

VARANIDAE –

Sand Goanna, Gould's Goanna	<i>Varanus gouldii</i>
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TYPHLOPIDAE –

Dark Spined Blind Snake	<i>Ramphotyphlops bicolor</i>
Prong-snouted Blind Snake	<i>Ramphotyphlops bituberculatus</i>

ELAPIDAE –

Yellow-faced Whip Snake	<i>Demansia psammophis cupreiceps</i>
Mallee Black-headed Snake	<i>Parasuta spectabilis spectabilis</i>
Mulga Snake, King Brown Snake	<i>Pseudechis australis</i>
Strap-snouted Brown Snake	<i>Pseudonaja aspidorhyncha</i>
Western Brown Snake	<i>Pseudonaja mengdeni</i>
Ringed Brown Snake	<i>Pseudonaja modesta</i>
Southern Desert Banded Snake	<i>Simoselaps bertholdi</i>

The area north and west of the garden site is a conservation area and used for training of T.A.F.E. students and some biological surveys have been done there in the past. Other reptile species that have been found there include 3 species which are possibly in the A.A.L.B.G. They are :-

Desert Skink
Interior Blind Snake
Eastern Bandy Bandy

Egernia inornata = (*Liopholis inornata*)
Ramphotyphlops endoterus
Vermicella annulata

The information has been sourced from these books :-

A complete guide to Reptiles of Australia, 3rd. edition, Steve Wilson and Gerry Swan.

Reptiles & Amphibians of Australia, 7th. edition, Harold Cogger.

Frogs of South Australia, 3rd. edition, Michael Tyler and Steven Walker.

I hope you found this article of interest.

B.Haase.