

SPECIES AT RISK OF EXTINCTION FROM CANE TOADS

“WHAT’S IN YOUR BACKYARD?”



KIMBERLEY SPECIALISTS
Saving the Environment



Kimberley Toad Busters

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Northern Quoll



“WHAT’S IN YOUR BACKYARD?”



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Northern Quoll

Dasyurus hallucatus

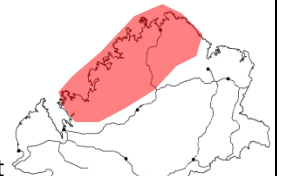
Length: Head/body 20-31 cm;

Tail 18 - 34 cm **Weight:** 0.3 - 1 kg

Distinguishing features: Size of a small cat; grey brown to brown with white spots on body; no spots on tail; sparse fur on tail; large eyes and ears; pointed nose; nocturnal. All males die after mating. **Diet:** Aggressive carnivore of small mammals, reptiles, arthropods and fruit. **Habitat:** Rocky eucalypt woodland, normally within 200 km of coast. **Distribution:** Originally across Northern Australia; now only Pilbara, NW Kimberley, northern NT and patches on east coast of QLD.

Refs: Jones C. & Parish S. RE "Field Guide to Australian Mammals"

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Brush Tailed Phascogale



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Brush Tailed Phascogale

Phascogale tapoatafa

Length: Head/Body 15-26 cm;

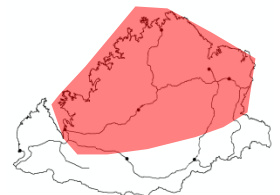
Tail 12-14 cm **Weight:** 38 g to 70 g

Distinguishing features: Size of a rat; Sharp snout; black bottle brush tail; tail Hairs up to 55 cm long can be erect when excited; grey in colour on back; cream to white belly; ears long and pink; bulging eyes. **Diet:** Invertebrates; arthropods; small vertebrates; nectar. **Habitat:** Woodlands; shrublands; monsoonal forest. **Distribution:** Range retreated due to habitat fragmentation, SW WA; Kimberley; east coast QLD, NSW and Victoria.

Jones C. & Parish S. RE "Field Guide to Australian Mammals"

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www.wildlifeaid.org.au



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Frilled Neck Lizard



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Frilled Neck Lizard

Chlamydosaurus kingii

Snout Vent Length: 26 cm

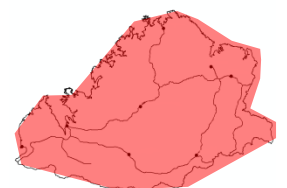
Distinguishing features: Loose frill of scaly skin attached to the neck. When on ground runs erect on hind limbs to nearest tree. When threatened frill is erected and mouth opened.

Habitat: Tropical woodlands. Rare to see during the dry season, lives in tree canopy. Common during wet, descends to ground after rain.

Distribution: Kimberley to Brisbane

Ref: Wilson S. & Swan G. "A complete guide to Reptiles of Australia"

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Northern Blue-tongue



© Sharon McLachlan

“WHAT’S IN YOUR BACKYARD?”

Northern or Common Blue-Tongue *Tiliqua scincoides (spp. intermedia and scincoides)*

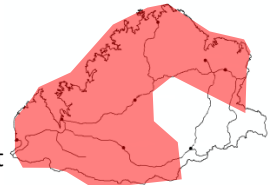
Snout Vent Length: 30-32 cm

Distinguishing features: Long body with thick tail, smooth scales and enlarged long scales on temple. 6-9 pale bands bet with 7-10 on tail. Bands can be broken or raded by heavy mottling. Flushed with orange to yellow with black bars on flanks. Blue tongue!

Habitat: Northern Australia. **Distribution:** WA, NT and QLD.

Ref: Wilson S. & Swan G. “A complete guide to Reptiles of Australia”
Storr G. Smith L. and Johnstone R. “Lizards of Western Australia: Skinks.”

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Freshwater Crocodile



Stuart MacDonald

ugmedia.com.au

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Freshwater crocodile *Crocodylus johnstoni*

Total length: Up to 2-3 m

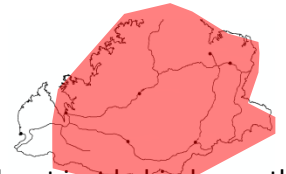
Distinguishing features: Snout slender, 1 row enlarged neck shields set just behind smooth skin. Notch on side of upper jaw, accommodating the 4th tooth of the lower jaw. Colour grey to brown with darker bands. **Habitat:** Freshwater rivers and billabongs; not normally dangerous but swimmers have been injured.

Distribution: Northern Australia **Status:** Specially protected (WA)

Ref: Wilson S. & Swan G. “A complete guide to Reptiles of Australia”

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King Brown



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“WHAT’S IN YOUR BACKYARD?”



King Brown or Mulga Snake *Pseudechis australis*

Total Length: 2 – 2.5 m

Distinguishing features: Colour highly variable from pale brown, olive to rich reddish brown. Lower (ventral) surfaces cream to white. Noticeable scales, strongly keeled.

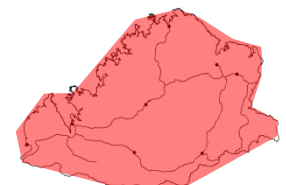
Habitat: Woodland, monsoon forests to desert

Diet: Invertebrates, fish, frogs, reptiles, reptile eggs, birds and mammals **Venom:** Highly dangerous

Distribution: WA, NT, QLD, SA and NSW

Ref: Wilson S. & Swan G. “A complete guide to Reptiles of Australia”

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Rainbow Bee-Eater



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“WHAT’S IN YOUR BACKYARD?”



Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*

Size: 22 – 25 cm.

Distinguishing features: Bright green, orange and yellow; black bill; orange wings in flight; black eye stripe with blue edge; black band on yellow stripe; back is light green; rump blue. Nests in burrows along banks. Often found in groups.

Diet: Bees; insects.

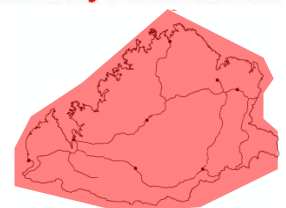
Habitat: Open country; most vegetation; banks.

Distribution: Australia wide.

Call: ‘prrrrrt-prrrrrt’ in flight.

Ref: Simpson K. & Day N. “Field Guide to the Birds of Australia”

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Sand Goanna

Varanus gouldii

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Gould’s or Sand Goanna

Varanus gouldii gouldii

Total Length: 1.2 - 1.6 m

Distinguishing features: Pale-edged

eye stripe; last third of tail

cream/yellow pattern less; throat often streaked grey; sometimes dark markings underneath. Often confused with *V. panoptes*

(*yellow-spotted monitor*), but much less robust; most widespread

and abundant goanna. **Habitat:** Forages widely over dry open

habitats, shelters in deep sloping burrows. **Diet:** Carnivorous

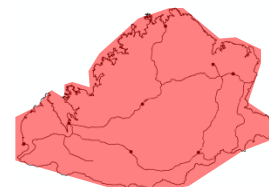
Distribution: Most widespread and abundant goanna over most

of Australia.

Ref: Wilson S. & Swan G. “A complete guide to Reptiles of Australia”

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www.museum.wa.gov.au



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Mertens’ Water Monitor

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Mertens’ Water Monitor

Varanus mertensi

Total Length: 1.1 m

Distinguishing features: Strong

laterally compressed dark tail;

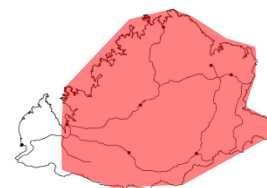
nostrils on upper part of snout; dark olive/grey with numerous small cream spots; semi-aquatic to arboreal.

Habitat: Watercourses/billabongs, usually drops from branches into water when disturbed; remains submerged for a considerable time. **Diet:** Carnivorous

Distribution: Kimberley to Cape York (QLD) **Similar species:** *V. mitchelli* (*Mitchells Water Monitor*)

Ref: Wilson S. & Swan G. “A complete guide to Reptiles of Australia”

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Mitchell’s Water Monitor

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SPECIES



“WHAT’S IN YOUR BACKYARD?”



Kimberley Toad Busters

Mitchell’s Water Monitor

Varanus mitchelli

Total Length: 70 cm

Distinguishing features: Laterally

compressed tail; dark grey/black

body; small cream spots with dark centred ocelli. Throat and neck marked with black blotches or bars and flushed with yellow.

Habitat: Pandanus watercourses, swamps, lagoons; semi-aquatic, shelters in bark and tree limbs over water.

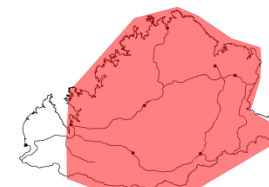
Diet: Carnivorous

Distribution: Kimberley to NW QLD

Similar species: *V. mertens* (*Mertens water goanna*)

Ref: Wilson S. & Swan G. “A complete guide to Reptiles of Australia”

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Yellow-spotted Monitor

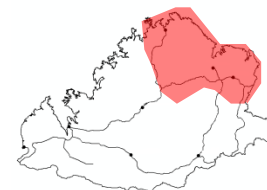


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“WHAT’S IN YOUR BACKYARD?”



Kimberley Toad Busters



Yellow-spotted Monitor

Varanus panoptes panoptes

Total Length: up to 1.4 m

Distinguishing features: Laterally compressed tail. Dark stripe away from eye. Throat and belly marked with dark dorsal and lateral spots stops halfway along tail; end of tail paler with narrow dark bands. More robust than *V. gouldii*.

Habitat: Grassland, woodland to riverine flats. **Diet:** Carnivorous

Distribution: Central Kimberley to Brisbane (SE QLD).

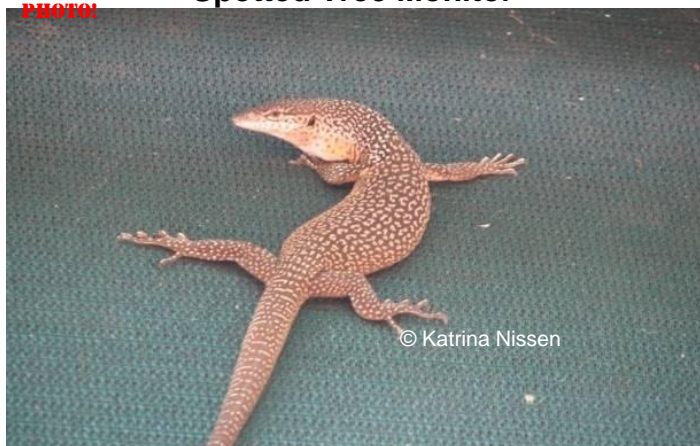
Similar species: *V. gouldii* (Sand goanna)

Ref: Wilson, S. & Swan, G. "A Complete guide to reptiles of Australia." New Holland Publishers.

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Spotted Tree Monitor

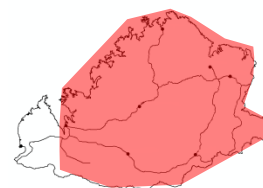


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“WHAT’S IN YOUR BACKYARD?”



Kimberley Toad Busters



Spotted Tree Monitor

Varanus scalaris

Total Length: 60 cm

Distinguishing features: Rounded tail. Distinct scales on top of head grade evenly into smaller scales above eyes. Colour ranges from grey/brown/black with prominent ocelli dark centred spots. Tail dark with irregular pale rings.

Habitat: Timbered/woodlands; shelters in tree hollows.

Diet: Carnivorous

Distribution: Kimberley to Cape York

Ref: Wilson S. & Swan G. "A complete guide to Reptiles of Australia"

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