

Key to the Skinks of South Australia



Eyrean Ctenotus, *Ctenotus taeniatus*

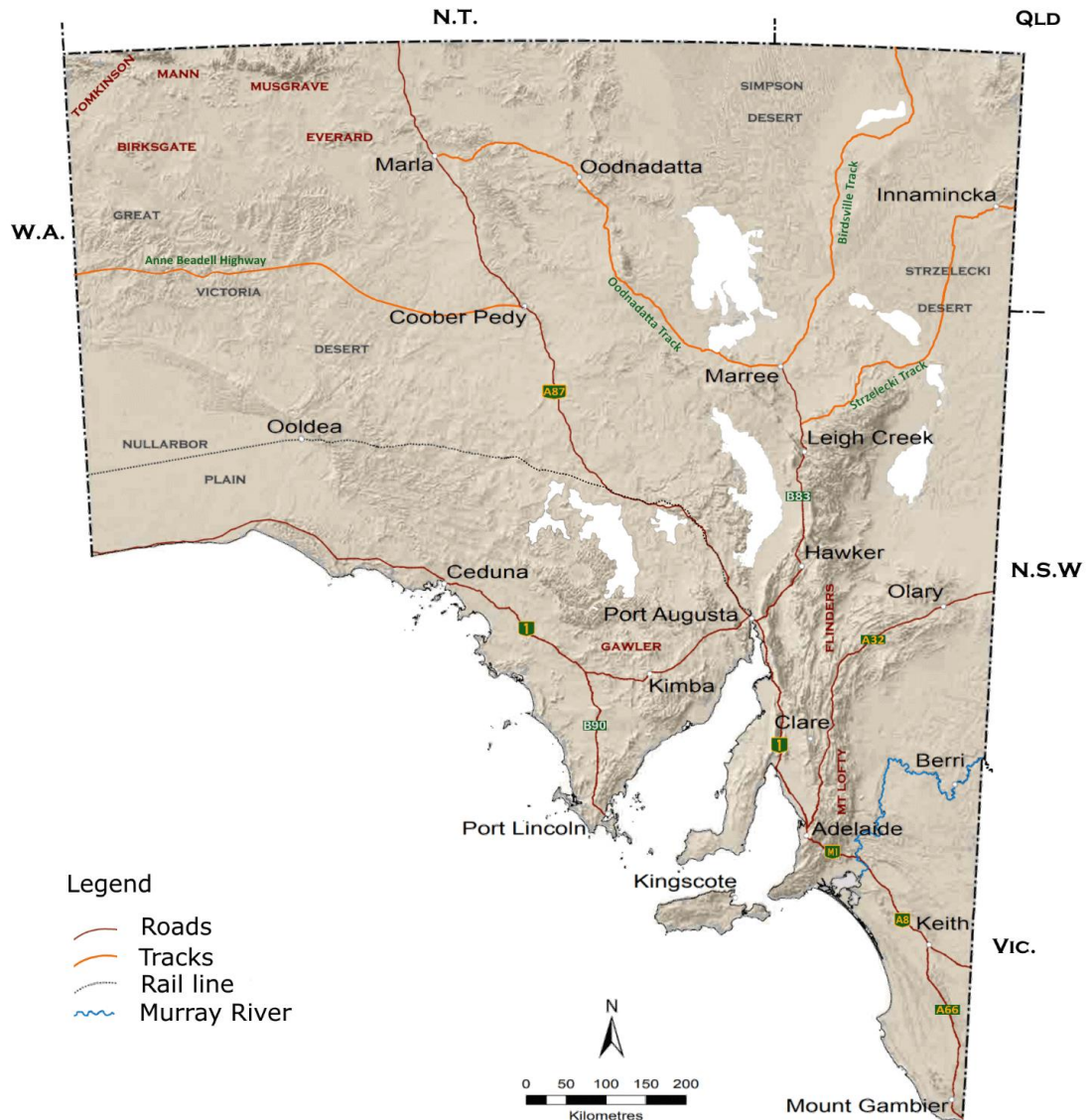
Mark Hutchinson & Ian Williams

Version: 2023

<https://www.samuseum.sa.gov.au/reptile-keys>

THE SKINKS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION



Map modified from the Vertebrate Census of South Australia showing place names and geographical features as well as some main roads and major desert tracks, to assist with interpreting the following distribution maps.

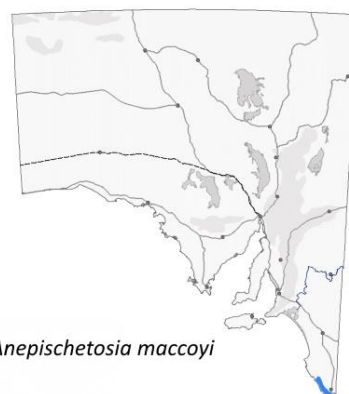
Distribution maps show known and likely occurrence, given suitable habitat. In some cases South Australian populations belong to recognised subspecies, indicated in blue text.



Acritoscincus duperreyi



Acritoscincus trilineatus



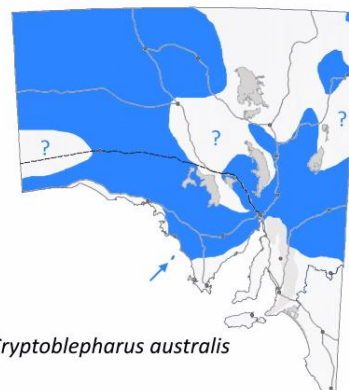
Anepischetosia maccoyi



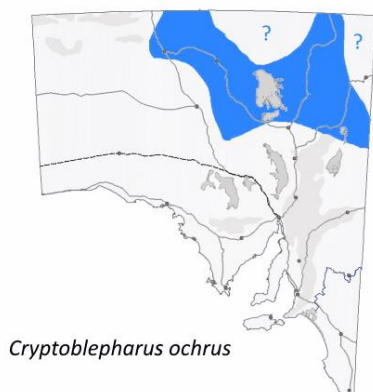
Austroblepharus kinghorni



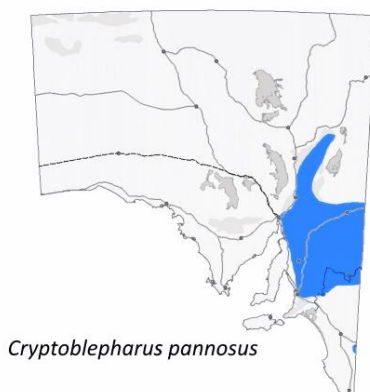
Carlia triacantha



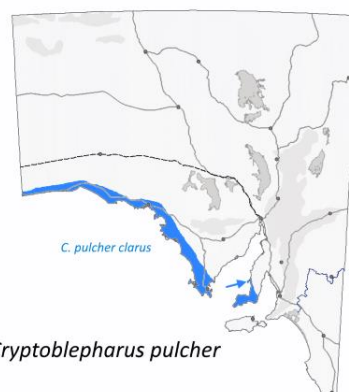
Cryptoblepharus australis



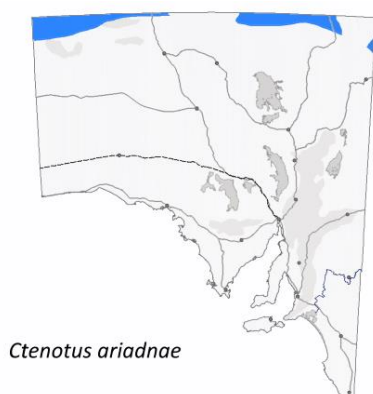
Cryptoblepharus ochrus



Cryptoblepharus pannosus



Cryptoblepharus pulcher



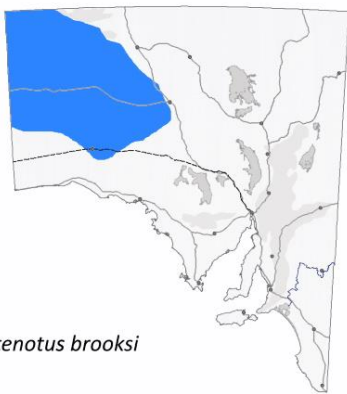
Ctenotus ariadnae



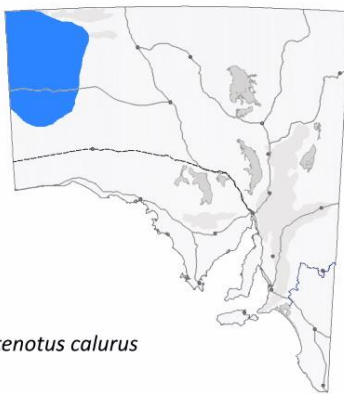
Ctenotus astarte



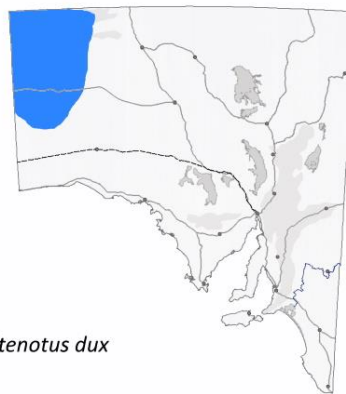
Ctenotus atlas



Ctenotus brooksi



Ctenotus calurus



Ctenotus dux



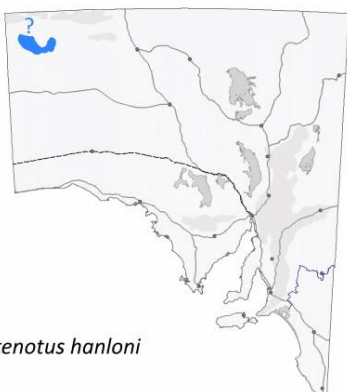
Ctenotus euclae



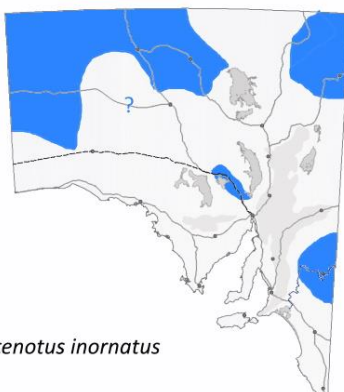
Ctenotus grandis



Ctenotus greeri



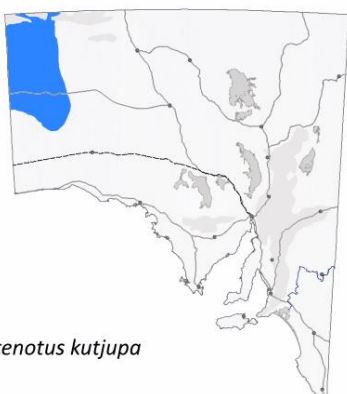
Ctenotus hanloni



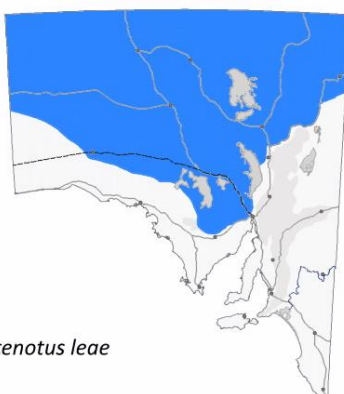
Ctenotus inornatus



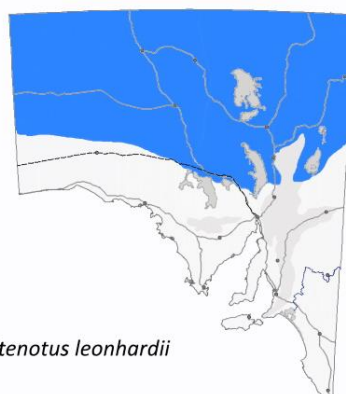
Ctenotus joanae



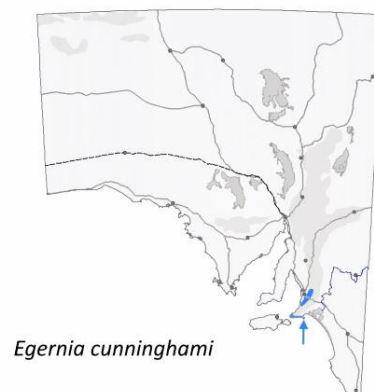
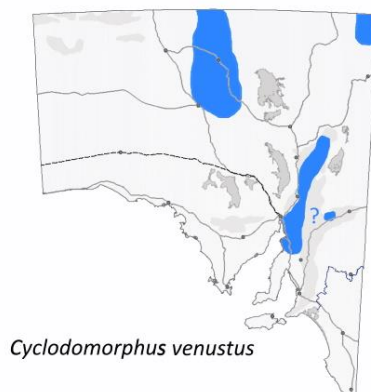
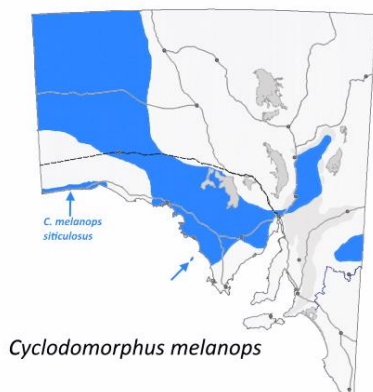
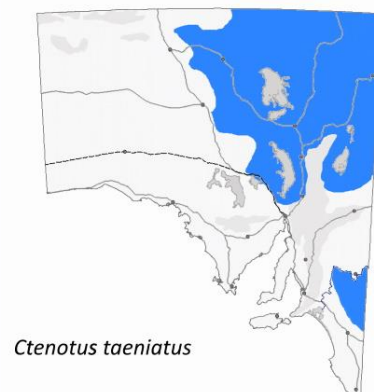
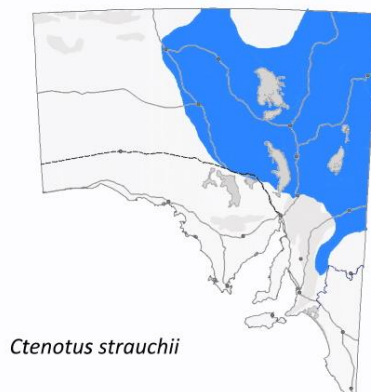
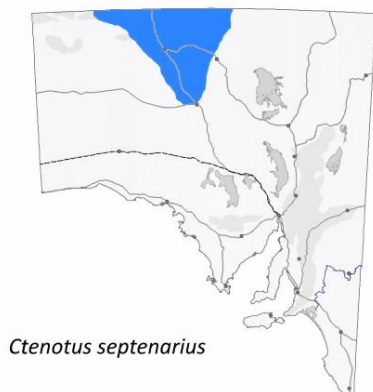
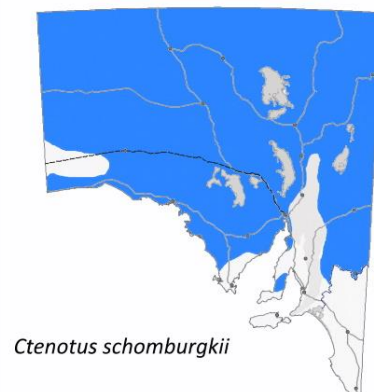
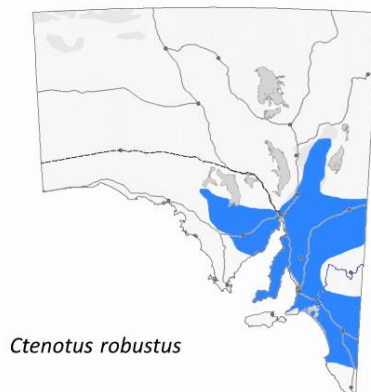
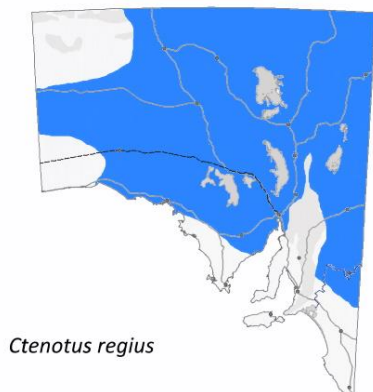
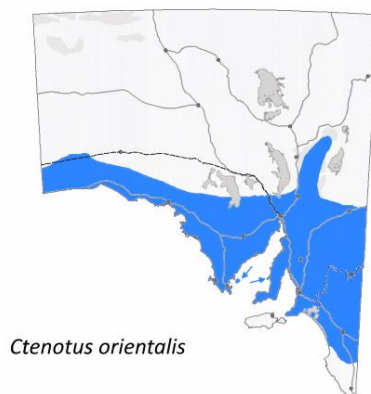
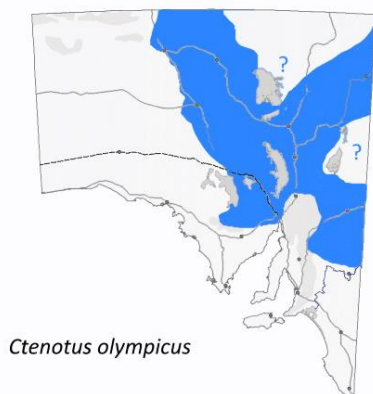
Ctenotus kutjupa

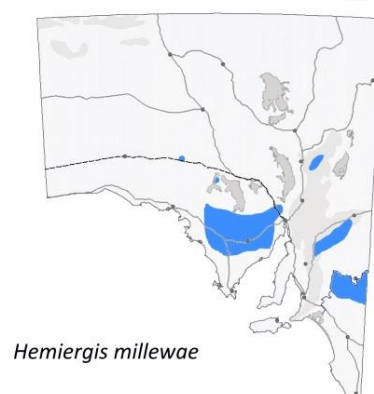
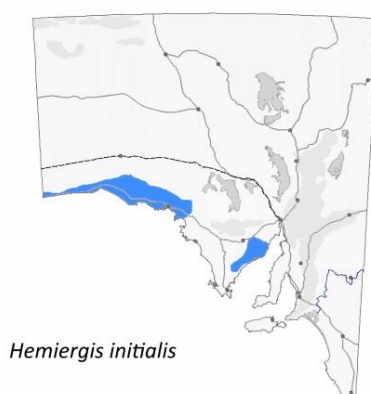
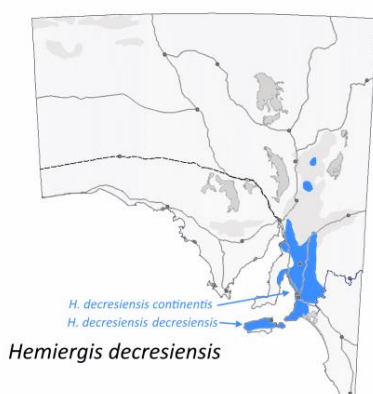
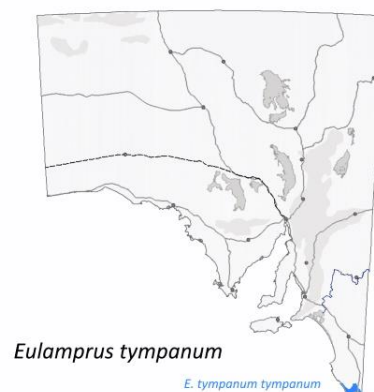
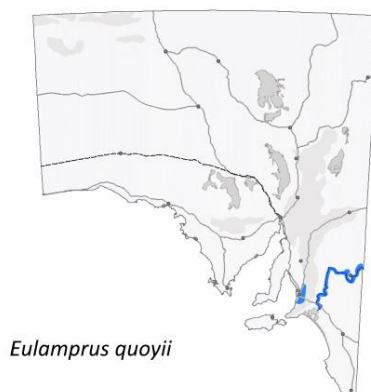
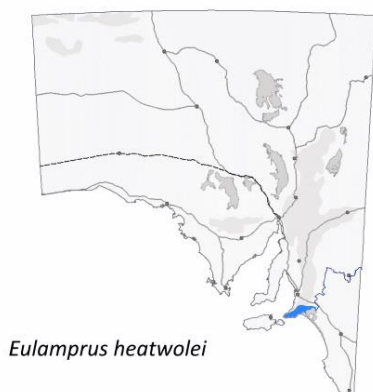
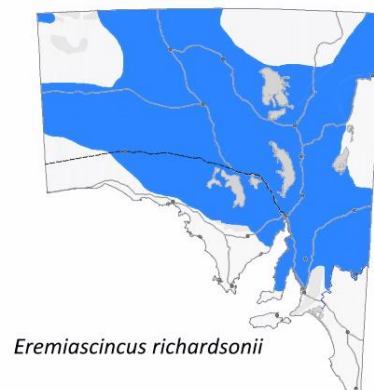
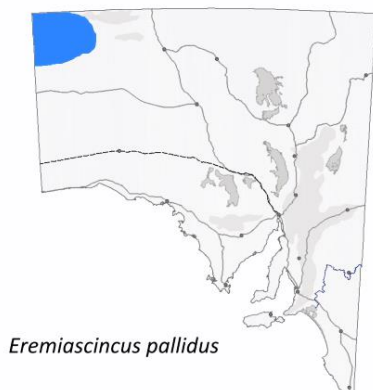


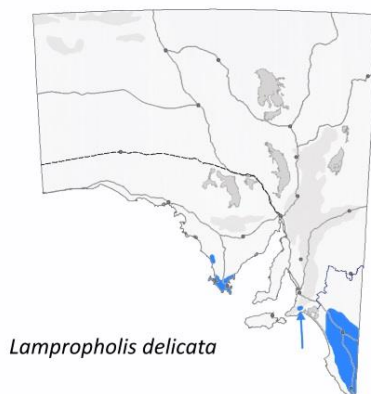
Ctenotus leae

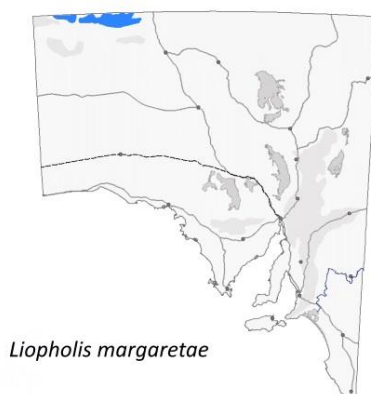
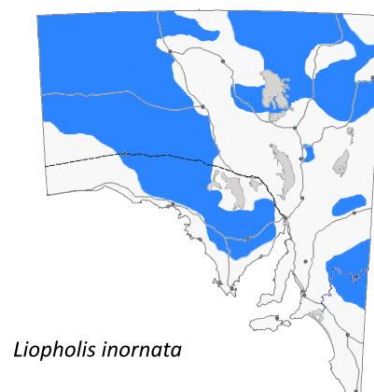
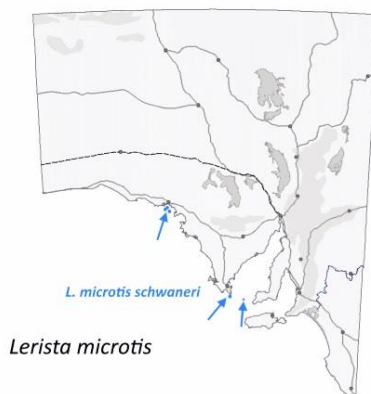


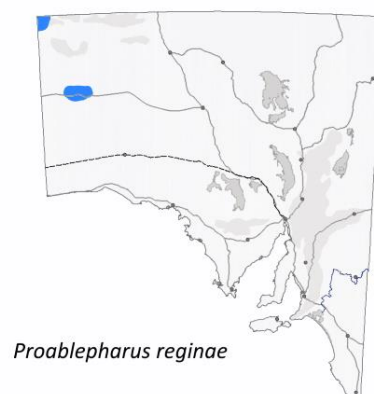
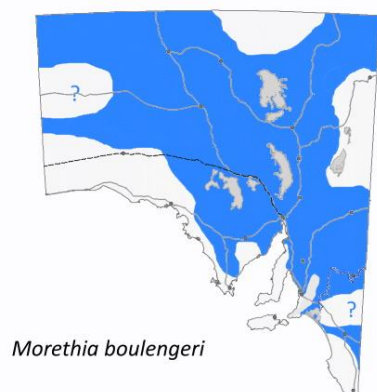
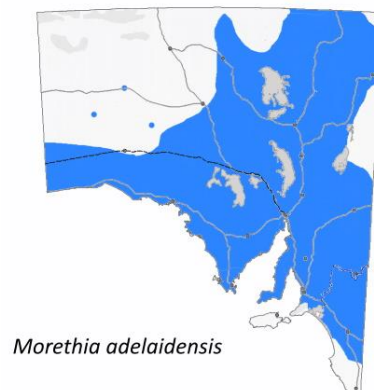
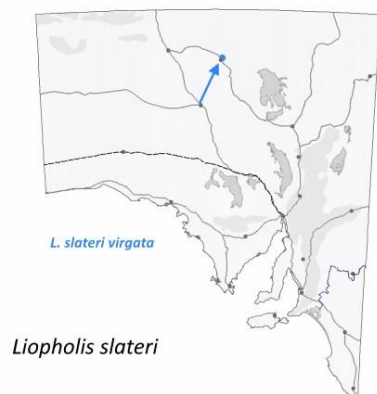
Ctenotus leonhardii

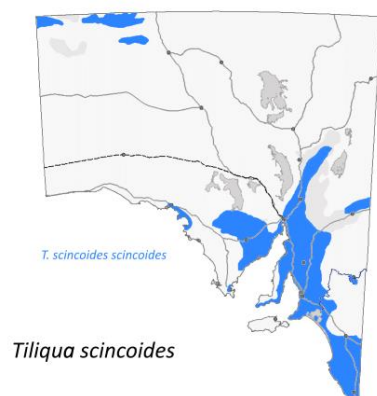
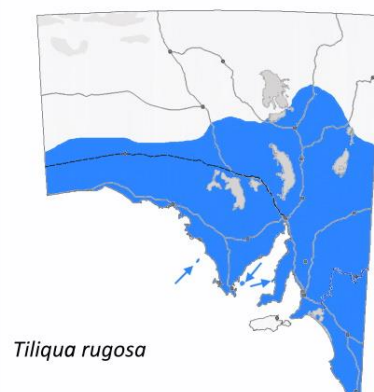
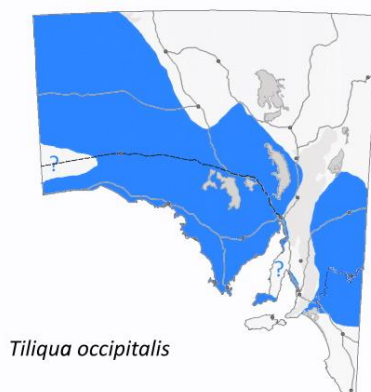














Tiliqua scincoides

2a. Head very distinct from neck



Cyclodomorphus melanops

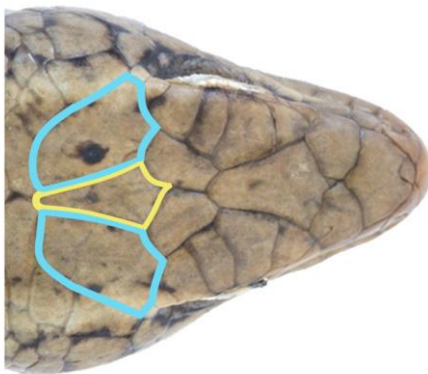
2b. Head barely distinct from neck



Tiliqua adelaidensis

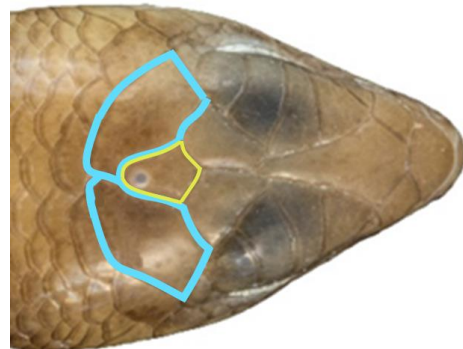
2a. All four limbs similar and with short toes

3. a. Parietal scales separated by large interparietal scale. 4
- b. Parietal scales in contact behind interparietal (occasionally very narrowly separated in *Eulamprus*), which may be distinct or fused with the frontoparietal 7



Liopholis personata

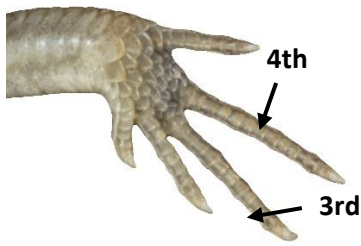
3a. Parietals (blue) separated by interparietal (yellow)



Eremiascincus richardsonii

3b. Parietals (blue) in contact behind interparietal (yellow)

4. a. Fourth toe of hind foot about as long as third; limbs very short [Cyclodomorphus](#) (p. 38)
- b. Fourth toe of hind foot markedly longer than third; limbs well-developed 5



Cyclodomorphus venustus

4a. 3rd and 4th toe similar in length



Egernia striolata

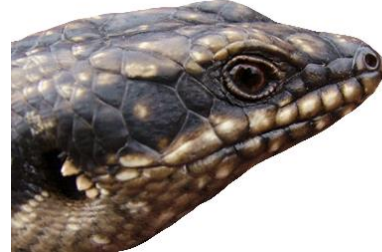
4b. Longer 4th toe

5. a. Scales along edges of eyelids expanded, somewhat flattened, and creamy to yellow, contrasting with remainder of eyelid scales; body scales smooth, shiny [Liopholis](#) (p. 50)
- b. Scales along edges of eyelids not expanded, and not especially prominent; body scales varied, smooth, dull, or spiny **4**



Liopholis inornata

5a. Edges of eyelids expanded, cream-coloured



Egernia striolata

5b. Eyelids less distinct

6. a. Only four rows of highly polished dorsal scales, striped in black and yellowish-tan; lower south-eastern swamps *Lissolepis coventryi* Swamp Skink
- b. Six or more rows of dorsal scales usually with shallow grooves or ridges. [Egernia](#) part (p. 48)



Lissolepis coventryi

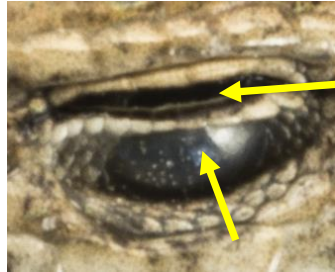
6a. Four rows of dorsal scales (brown-centred, black-edged)

7. a. Lower eyelid scaly and moveable (fissure between upper and lower eyelids visible when eye closed) 8
- b. Lower eyelid with a transparent disc ('spectacle'), either moveable or permanently closed; no fissure between upper and lower eyelids 10



Eulamprus quoyii

7a. Scaly, moveable lower eyelid



Lampropholis delicata

7b. Lower eyelid movable with a transparent disc



Morethia adelaidensis

7b. Lower eyelid permanently closed with a transparent disc

- 8 a. Colour pattern consists of cross-bands, sometimes only apparent on the tail or almost absent in a few populations . . . [Eremiascincus](#) (p. 41)
- b. Colour pattern never consisting only of cross-bands 9



Eremiascincus richardsonii

8a. Strongly banded species



Eremiascincus pallidus

8a. Weakly banded species

- 9 a. Ear opening with a fringe of two to five scales (ear lobules) along its front edge; widespread across SA [Ctenotus](#) (p. 25)
- b. Entire margin of ear opening smooth; confined to humid areas and beside water bodies from Adelaide to the southeast of SA. [Eulamprus](#) (p. 42)



Ctenotus olympicus

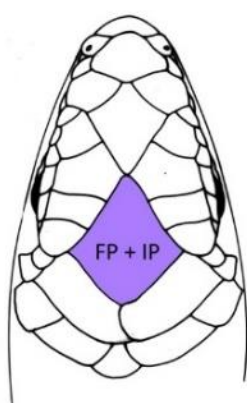
8a. Ear opening with fringe of scales



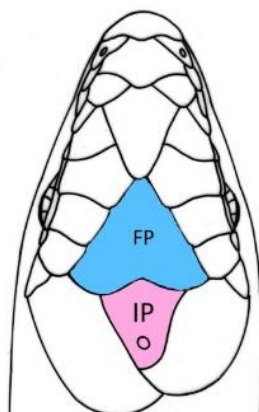
Eulamprus quoyii

8b. Ear opening without fringe

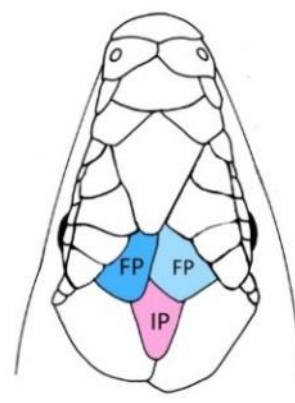
- 10 a.** Interparietal and frontoparietal head scales fused into a single diamond-shaped shield; five fingers and toes; lower eyelid forms an immovable 'spectacle' over the eye **11**
- b.** Interparietal distinct from the frontoparietals, which may be either paired or fused, or interparietal fused to frontoparietals but forelimb absent; various types of lower eyelid **12**

*Morethia boulengeri*

10a. Interparietal and frontoparietals fused

*Acritoscincus duperreyi*

10b. Interparietal distinct from fused frontoparietals

*Lerista arenicola*

10b. Interparietal distinct from paired frontoparietals
(Illustrations: Delma Corazon)

- 11 a.** Head and body flattened; often climbing on vertical tree trunks, rock faces and fences; two or three upper eyelid scales enlarged to form a 'visor' above the eye. [Cryptoblepharus](#) (p. 22)
- b.** Head and body not flattened; mainly on the ground or fallen wood and litter; upper eyelid scales not projecting, hidden under eyebrow (supraciliary) scales [Morethia](#) (p. 55)

*Cryptoblepharus pannosus*

11a. Strongly flattened head and body

*Morethia boulengeri*

11b. Deeper head and body



Cryptoblepharus australis

11a. Upper eyelid scales enlarged to form a 'visor'



Morethia adelaidensis

11b. Upper eyelid scales hidden under eyebrow

- 12.** a. Four fingers and five toes **13**
b. Five fingers and toes, or fewer than five toes **14**

- 13.** a. Dorsal scales smooth; slender with small legs and dark lateral stripe; very small, max SVL less than 35 mm
b. Dorsal scales strongly keeled; strongly built with relatively long legs; no lateral stripe but breeding males brilliantly coloured with iridescent green head and red sides; SVL up to 55 mm . . .

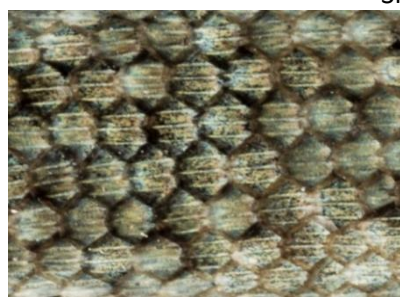
Menetia greyii
Common Dwarf Skink

Carlia triacantha
Desert Rainbow Skink



Menetia greyii

13a. Smooth dorsal scales



Carlia triacantha

13b. Strongly keeled dorsal scales



Menetia greyii

13a. Slender body with dark lateral stripe



Carlia triacantha

13b. 'Chunky' body without a dark lateral stripe. Brightly coloured males.

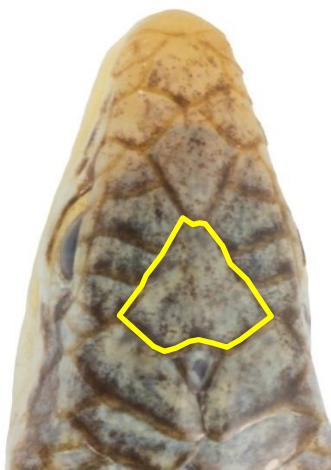
14. a. Five fingers and toes; lower eyelid an immoveable 'spectacle' . . . 15
 b. Either fewer than five fingers and toes, or if five fingers and toes, then lower eyelid moveable 16
15. a. Strong lateral pattern, a series of squarish dark brown blotches and a white mid-lateral stripe running between forelimb and hind limb; juvenile tail colour same as body ***Notoscincus ornatus***
 Ornate Big-eyed Skink
- b. Sides unpatterned or with weak linear pattern caused by dark corners of the lateral scales; juveniles with brilliant red tail colouring 15



Notoscincus ornatus

14a. Strong lateral pattern

15. a. Frontoparietal single; adult back pattern of longitudinal dark grey lines on a lighter grey to beige background colour; juvenile with red tail, the colour persisting in adults ***Austroblepharus kinghorni***
 Blacksoil Skink
- b. Frontoparietals paired; adult uniformly olive brown above juvenile with bright red tail, but adult tail colour same as body. . ***Proablepharus reginae***
 Silvereye Skink



Austroblepharus kinghorni

15a. Frontoparietal single



Proablepharus reginae

1b. Frontoparietals paired



Austroblepharus kinghorni

15a. Longitudinal grey lines on back, red-orange tail persists in adults



Proablepharus reginae (juv)

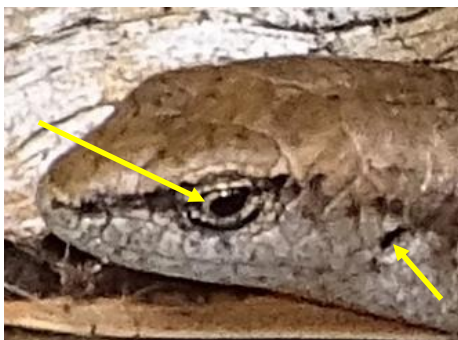
15b. No striped pattern (red tail lost in adults)

- 16**
- a.** Ear opening absent, replaced by a scaly depression; snout bluntly rounded in side view; iris of eye blackish, indistinguishable from pupil [Hemiergis](#) (p. 43)
 - b.** Ear opening present (may be tiny), and no scaly depression; if ear very small, snout conical or wedge-shaped in side view (Fig. 18a, *Lerista*); iris of eye may be paler than pupil **17**



Hemiergis decresiensis

16a. No ear opening – ear indicated by a scaly depression; iris black, pupil not distinguishable



Lampropholis guichenoti

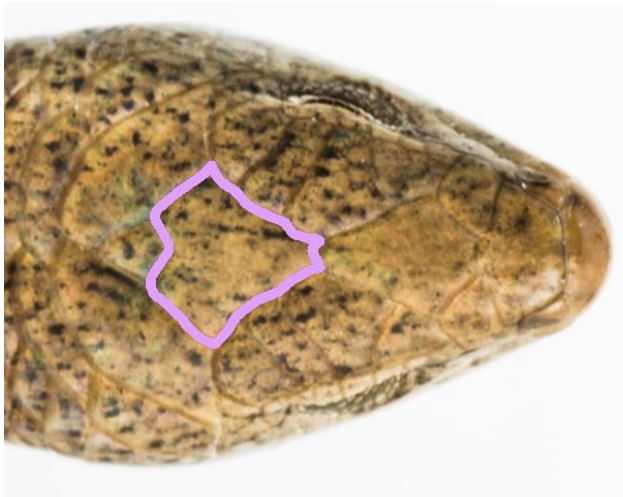
16b. Ear opening obvious; iris paler than pupil



Lerista punctatovittata

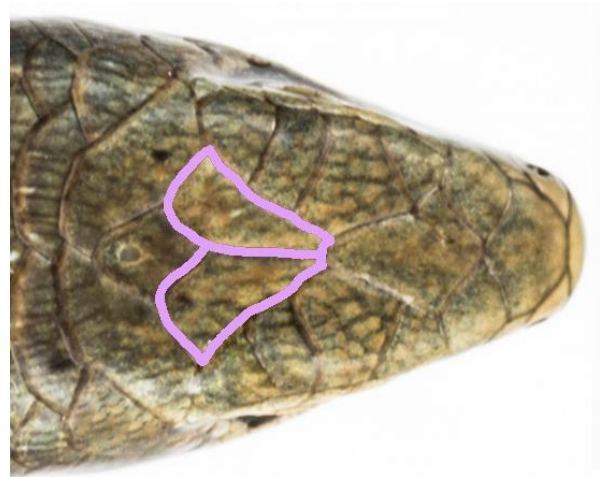
16b. Ear opening tiny or covered by scales; snout wedge-shaped

- 17**
- a.** Frontoparietal single; five fingers and toes **18**
- b.** Frontoparietals paired or single; if single, fewer than five toes . **19**



Lampropholis delicata

17a. Single frontoparietal



Pseudemoia entrecasteauxii

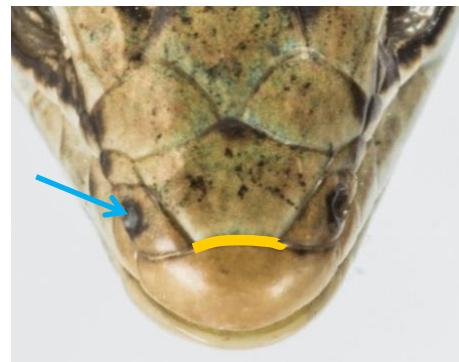
17b. Paired frontoparietals

- 18** **a.** Small, maximum snout-vent length usually less than 45 mm; rostral-frontonasal suture relatively wide; nasal scales small, widely spaced, nostrils opening sideways [Lampropholis](#) (p. 44)
- b.** Larger, maximum snout-vent length 70 mm; rostral-frontonasal suture relatively narrow; nasal scales moderate-sized, nostrils angled a little upwards. [Acritoscincus](#) (p. 21)



Lampropholis delicata

18a. Broader rostral-frontonasal suture (yellow), widely spaced nostrils (blue)



Acritoscincus trilineatus

18b. Narrower rostral-frontonasal suture (yellow), more closely spaced nostrils (blue)

- 19** **a.** Eye uniformly blackish, the iris indistinguishable from pupil; upper jaw may overhang lower jaw and front limbs may be greatly reduced or absent; middle pair of preanal scales twice as large as adjacent preanals [Lerista](#) (p. 45)

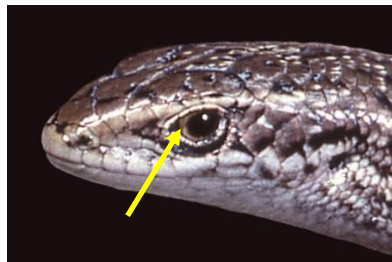
- b. Iris of eye distinct from pupil; upper jaw not overhanging lower jaw, front limbs always present; middle pair of preanal scales not strongly enlarged

20



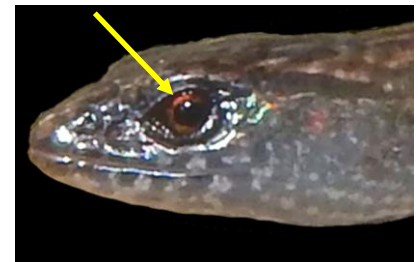
Lerista bougainvillii

- 19a.** Iris black, not distinct from pupil



Pseudemoia pagenstecheri

- 19b.** Iris distinct from pupil

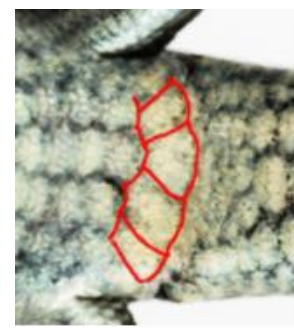


Anepischetosia maccoyi



Hemiergis peronii

- 19a.** Middle pair of preanal scales much larger than adjacent scales



Pseudemoia entrecasteauxii

- 19b.** All preanal scales similar in size

- 20** a. Limbs well-developed, five fingers and toes
b. Limbs small and weak, number of fingers and toes variable in SA specimens, usually 4, sometimes 5 or 3

[Pseudemoia](#) (p. 58)

Anepischetosia maccoyi
Salamander Skink



Pseudemoia baudini

- 20a.** Limbs well-developed



Anepischetosia maccoyi

20b. Limbs small and weak

KEY TO THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SPECIES OF *ACRITOSCINCUS*

1. a. Light midlateral and dorsolateral stripes and well-developed black vertebral stripe present ***A. duperreyi***
Eastern Three-lined Skink
- b. No light midlateral stripe; pale dorsolateral stripe weak or absent; black vertebral stripe usually absent but may have several narrow or incomplete dark dorsal lines or dashes ***A. trilineatus***
Western Three-lined Skink



Acritoscincus duperreyi (male)

1a. Strongly striped pattern



Acritoscincus trilineatus

1b. Almost no pattern, but may have fine dorsal lines or dashes

KEY TO THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SPECIES OF *CRYPTOBLEPHARUS*

1. a. Dorsal pattern includes only alternating stripes, with no dorsal light and dark speckling; scales on the soles of the feet dark pigmented, smooth, and rounded ***C. pulcher***
Bight Snake-eye Skink
- b. Dorsal pattern includes light to heavy pattern of light and dark speckling; soles of the feet whitish, with the scales at the base of the toes triangular, projecting and sharply pointed **2**



Cryptoblepharus pulcher

- 1a.** Dorsal pattern of prominent stripes without significant speckling



Cryptoblepharus australis

- 1b.** Dorsal pattern with light and dark speckling



Cryptoblepharus pulcher

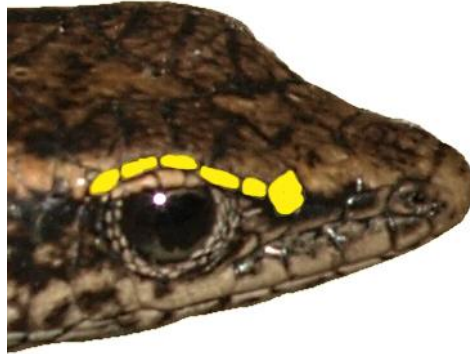
- 1a.** Soles of feet with blackish, smooth, rounded scales



Cryptoblepharus australis

- 1b.** Soles of feet with pale, pointed, triangular scales

2. a. Most often six supraciliaries; subdigital lamellae on 4th toe smooth-edged when viewed laterally ***C. australis***
Inland Snake-eye Skink
- b. Most often five supraciliaries; majority have subdigital scales that are keeled (sharp-pointed apex) when viewed laterally, but some have smooth-edged subdigital scales . . . **3**



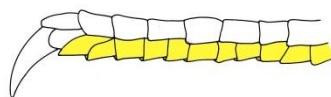
Cryptoblepharus australis

2a. Six supraciliaries

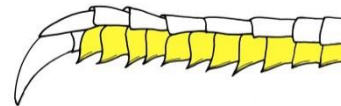


Cryptoblepharus pannosus

2b. Five supraciliaries



2a. Underside of toes with blunt scales



2b. Underside of toes with spiny scales

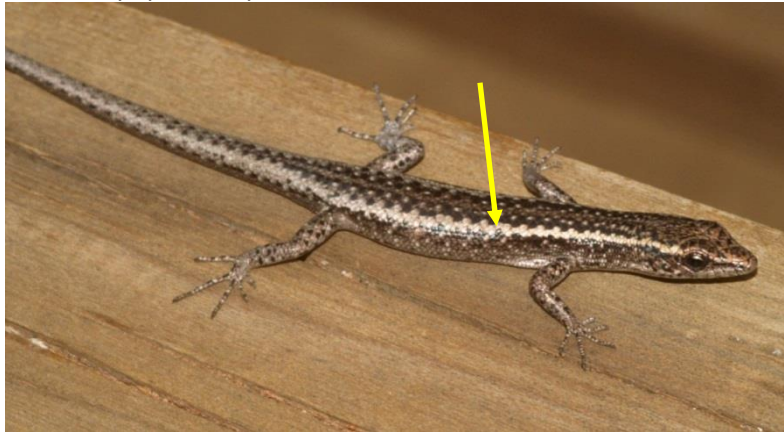
(Illustration: Delma Corazon)

3. a. Usually dusty grey to light brown with weak dorsal speckling; and distinct, moderately straight-edged pale dorsolateral stripes; north of the Barrier Highway ***C. ochrus***
Pale Snake-eye Skink
- b. Usually strongly speckled blackish and light grey, giving a chequerboard effect; light dorsolateral stripes ragged-edged due to darker scales; south of the Barrier Highway ***C. pannosus***
Ragged Snake-eye Skink



Cryptoblepharus ochrus

- 3a.** Relatively well-defined dorsolateral and lateral stripes and weakly speckled pattern



Cryptoblepharus pannosus

- 3b.** Ragged-edged, pale dorsolateral stripe and heavily dark-speckled back pattern

Note:

Apart from C. pulcher, the other SA species of Cryptoblepharus can be difficult to differentiate from one another. The numbers of supraciliaries described in the key are based upon usual values for each species. C. australis occasionally has 5 supraciliaries and C. pannosus 6; check left and right sides as atypical counts are generally only on one side. For C. ochrus many will have smooth subdigital lamellae, but some will have some basal spiny subdigital lamellae. Geographical location can assist in resolving identity.

KEY TO THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SPECIES OF *Ctenotus*

1. a. Body pattern composed entirely of black-edged white spots arranged in rows along the body ***C. pantherinus***
Leopard Ctenotus
- b. Body pattern includes some striped patterning (a few species may be almost completely plain) **2**



Ctenotus pantherinus

- 1a. Body pattern composed entirely of black-edged white spots



Ctenotus spaldingi

- 1b. Body pattern includes contrasting dark and pale stripes



Ctenotus inornatus

- 1b. Striping present but poorly contrasting
2. a. Body pattern composed entirely of strongly contrasting longitudinal stripes (*C. ariadnae* has lines that break into spots on the sides of the neck; some *C. piankai* have a few pale flecks in the dark lateral stripe). **3**

- b. Body pattern includes both stripes and longitudinal series of spots on the sides (fig 1b, *C. spaldingi*); (pattern may be poorly contrasting; some *C. euclae* completely lack lateral spots) **10**



Ctenotus atlas

- 2a.** Body pattern entirely of contrasting longitudinal stripes



Ctenotus orientalis

- 2b.** Body pattern includes both stripes and series of spots

3. a. Back and sides with only six dark-edged whitish lines **4**
b. Back and sides with eight or more pale lines **5**

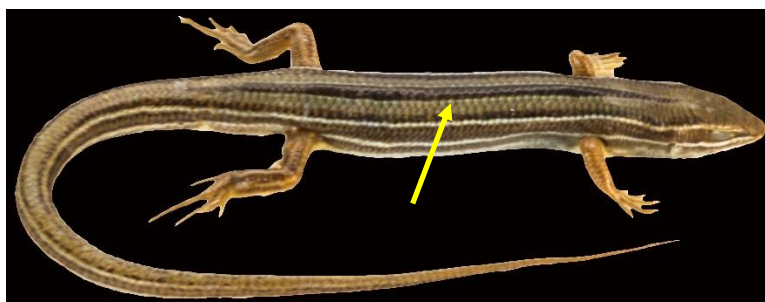
4. a. All six light stripes are about equal in colour and width; intervening zones uniformly dark brown; midlateral light line stops at ear opening ***C. piankai***
Coarse-sand Ctenotus

- b. Dorsolateral and midlateral light stripes more prominent than the dorsal pair, which separate a blackish vertebral stripe from pale grey-brown laterodorsal zones; midlateral light line runs across ear opening to the nostril ***C. joanae***
Blacksoil Ctenotus



Ctenotus piankai

- 4a.** Six light body stripes equal in colour and width



Ctenotus joanae

4b. More prominent light dorsolateral and midlateral stripes compared to the thin, light paravertebral stripes (arrowed)



Ctenotus piankai

4a. Light midlateral stripe stops at ear opening



Ctenotus joanae

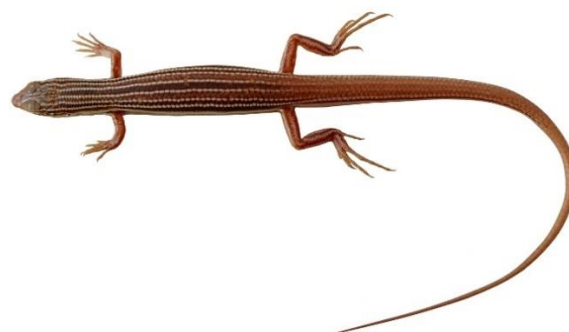
4b. Light midlateral stripe runs across ear opening to the nostril

- | | | |
|----|--|--|
| 5 | a. Eight light stripes on the body | 6 |
| | b. Ten or more light stripes along body | 7 |
| 6. | a. Tail blue-grey to bright blue; basal subcaudal scales with black markings most obvious on outer edges; max. SVL 48 mm . . . | <p><i>C. calurus</i>
Blue-tailed Ctenotus</p> |
| | b. Tail reddish; basal subcaudal unmarked ; max. SVL 60 mm . . . | <p><i>C. leae</i>
Centralian Coppertail</p> |



Ctenotus calurus

6a. Tail blue



Ctenotus leae

6b. Tail sandy red

*Ctenotus calurus***6a.** Scales underneath tail with black markings*Ctenotus leae***6b.** Scales underneath tail unmarked

- | | | |
|----------|---|--|
| 7 | a. 10 light lines along body (fig 2a)
b. 12 or more light lines along body | C. atlas
Southern Spinifex
Ctenotus
8 |
| 8 | a. Adult back pattern consists of relatively wide tan coloured stripes that get broader with age
b. Adult back pattern consists of very narrow sandy or straw-coloured lines that remain narrow throughout life. | C. dux
Narrow-lined
Ctenotus
9 |

*Ctenotus dux*

- 8a.** Juvenile, showing back with narrowly separated tan stripes (tan stripes become broader and the left and right pair each run together in older animals)

*Ctenotus ariadnae***8b.** Back with narrow straw-coloured lines at all ages

- | | | |
|----------|--|--|
| 9 | a. Striped lateral pattern continues to neck to the level of the ear.
b. Striped lateral pattern breaks up into spots on the neck | C. quattuordecim-
lineatus
Many-lined Ctenotus
C. ariadnae
Pinstripe Ctenotus |
|----------|--|--|



Ctenotus quattuordecimlineatus

9a. Lateral striped pattern continues onto side of neck



Ctenotus ariadnae

9b. Lateral striped pattern breaks into spots and blotches on side of neck

- 10 a.** Small species, maximum snout-vent length less than 55 mm;
subdigital lamellae each with sharp-pointed apex **11**
- b.** Medium to large species, maximum snout-vent length 75 mm
or more; subdigital lamellae smooth or obtusely pointed **15**



Ctenotus leae



Ctenotus regius

- 5a.** Underside of toes with sharp-edged, pointed scales
- 5b.** Underside of toes with blunt or obtusely pointed scales
- 11. a.** Upper lip scales with prominent light stripe running back across the ear. **12**
- b.** Upper lip scales with dark-edged pale blotches running up on to the temples **13**



Ctenotus schomburgkii

11a. White lip stripe; area behind the eyes black with light brown blotches



Ctenotus taeniatus

11b. White, dark-edged blotches from upper lips to behind the eyes; white lip stripe

- 12. a.** Dark lateral stripe (maybe broken up on the body) breaks up on the sides of the tail into a series of squarish blotches; prefrontals small, widely separated by the frontal; in life, soles of feet yellow.
- b.** Dark lateral stripe extends on to tail as a continuous stripe; prefrontals enlarged and either in contact with one another or only narrowly separated; soles of feet white

C. strauchii

Short-legged
Ctenotus

C. schomburgkii
Common Sandplain
Ctenotus



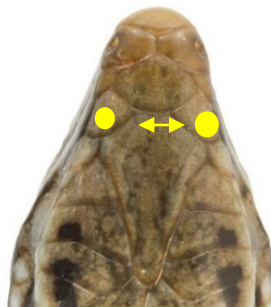
Ctenotus strauchii

12a. Dark lateral stripe breaks up on the sides of the tail into a series of blotches



Ctenotus schomburgkii

12b. Dark lateral stripe extends on to tail as continuous stripe



Ctenotus strauchii

12a. Prefrontals smaller and widely separated



Ctenotus schomburgkii

12b. Prefrontals larger and narrowly separated)

- 13. a.** Dark upper lateral stripe well-developed, often continuous, sometimes with few or no pale spots; coast and adjacent inland of Eyre Peninsula and the Great Australian Bight.
- b.** Upper lateral stripe if continuous has numerous pale spots, but in most specimens the stripe is reduced to a series of dark blotches (see 14b); central and northern South Australia

C. euclae

Bight Coast Ctenotus

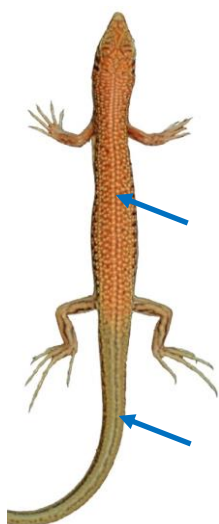
14



Ctenotus euclae

13a. Dark lateral stripe usually well-developed and continuous but sometimes containing a few pale spots

- 14. a.** Tail greenish brown, body sandy orange; found west of the Stuart Highway; lateral pattern broken and dorsal pattern weakly contrasting ***C. brooksi***
Sandhill Ctenotus
- b.** Tail same colour as body, pale beige to sandy brown; found east of the Stuart Highway; variable body pattern, weakly to strongly developed ***C. taeniatus***
Eyrean Ctenotus



Ctenotus brooksi

14a. Usual colouring; orange body, greenish tail



Ctenotus taeniatus

14b. Usual colouring: body and tail colour similar



Ctenotus taeniatus

14b. Striped, chequered and reduced patterns seen in *C. taeniatus*

- 15. a.** Dorsally a pale yellowish brown background colour with a strong pattern of paler and darker dots and dashes sometimes tending to align; irregular greyish vertebral stripe present or absent ... ***C. astarte***
Ashy Downs Ctenotus
- b.** Colour pattern not as above; straight black vertebral stripe present **16**



Ctenotus astarte

- 15a.** Irregular greyish vertebral stripe with a dorsal pattern of pale speckles and darker dashes
- 16. a.** Back pattern of five narrow black lines on a reddish-brown background continuous to base of tail; side pattern of numerous light spots, no trace of any lateral striping; northwest corner of SA **17**
- b.** If back pattern with five black lines, the pattern fades towards the tail; side pattern in some species may include a partial or complete white lateral stripe **18**
- 17. a.** Sides dark brown, with numerous very small pale dots randomly scattered or sometimes tending to align vertically; very large size, can reach 120 mm SVL ***C. grandis***
Giant Desert Ctenotus
- b.** Sides light grey to tan, with scattered whitish spots or small blotches that tend to form roughly parallel longitudinal series; moderate size, to 70 mm SVL ***C. hanloni***
Nimble Ctenotus



Ctenotus grandis

- 17a.** Lateral spots small, numerous, vaguely vertically aligned



Ctenotus hanloni

- 17b.** Lateral spots fewer, larger, in longitudinal series

18. a. Sides of head usually with weak or no pattern apart from contrasting whitish eyelids; belly usually pale lemon yellow; lateral spotted pattern variable, sometimes (NW Ranges) well-developed but usually poorly contrasting and generally brownish
- b. Sides of the head and under the eyes with continuation of the lateral pattern; belly white to cream; lateral body pattern of spots well-developed

C. inornatus
Brown Ctenotus

19



Ctenotus inornatus

18a. Weakly patterned, plain face



Ctenotus inornatus

18a. Strongly patterned body, plain face



Ctenotus spaldingi

18b. Well-developed body pattern extending to sides of head and under the eyes

19. a. Two or three pairs of black lines either side of the vertebral stripe, starting on the nape and variably extending along the anterior half of the back and fading before the hips
- b. No black paravertebral lines

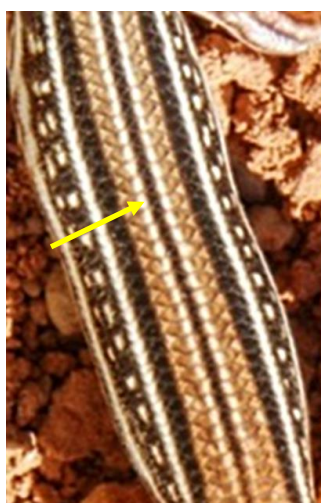
C. septenarius
Gibber Ctenotus

20

*Ctenotus septenarius*

19a. Black paravertebral lines on the nape of neck fading towards the tail

- 20.** a. White midlateral stripe well-developed, in most specimens running forward at least as far as the ear; black vertebral stripe with distinct narrow white to pale yellow edges **21**
- b. White midlateral stripe if present usually fades or breaks up before reaching the armpit; pale edges to black vertebral stripe present or absent. **22**

*Ctenotus regius*

20a. White edges to black vertebral stripe

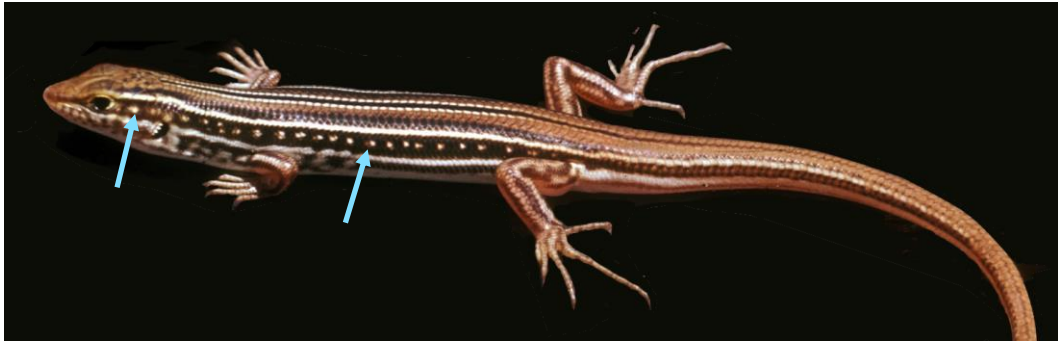
*Ctenotus leonhardii*

20b. Vertebral stripe outlined by the background brownish colouring, not narrow white edges.

- 21.** a. Reddish and black above; white midlateral stripe continues strongly across the head along the upper lips; white spots in the black upper lateral zone small and intense, sometimes in more than one row; max SVL 75 mm
- b. Shades of brown above; white midlateral stripe breaks up anterior to the ear, rarely reaching the upper lips; whitish spots in the black upper lateral zone relatively large, in a single series and sometimes poorly defined in larger specimens; max. SVL to 115 mm

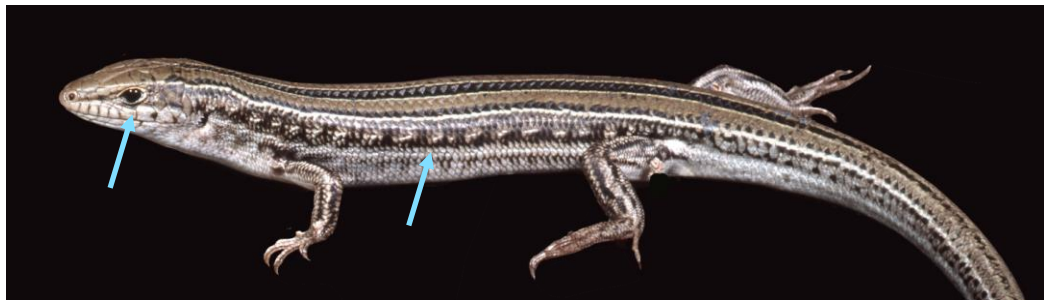
C. regius
Eastern Desert
Ctenotus

C. robustus
Eastern Striped Skink



Ctenotus regius

21a. White spots and midlateral stripe sharply defined; stripe runs forward of ear to under the eye



Ctenotus robustus

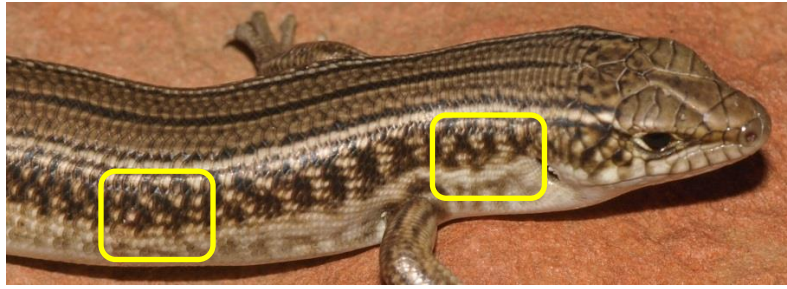
21b. White spots and midlateral stripe with soft outlines; stripe blurs or fades forward of the ear

- 22. a.** Sides of neck and ear region differently patterned to the upper lateral zone of the mid-body, grey to maroon with relatively large white spots **23**
- b.** Sides of neck and ear region patterned with a continuation of the upper lateral body pattern **24**



Ctenotus leonhardii

22a. Neck pattern different to upper lateral pattern of mid-body



Ctenotus olympicus

22b. Neck pattern same as upper lateral pattern of mid-body

- 23.** a. Dark laterodorsal zone encloses a series of pale spots or dashes
b. Dark laterodorsal zone without pale markings

C. greeri

Greer's Ctenotus

C. leonhardii

Common Desert

Ctenotus



Ctenotus greeri

23a. Black laterodorsal stripe contains a row of pale spots



Ctenotus leonhardii

23b. Laterodorsal spots absent

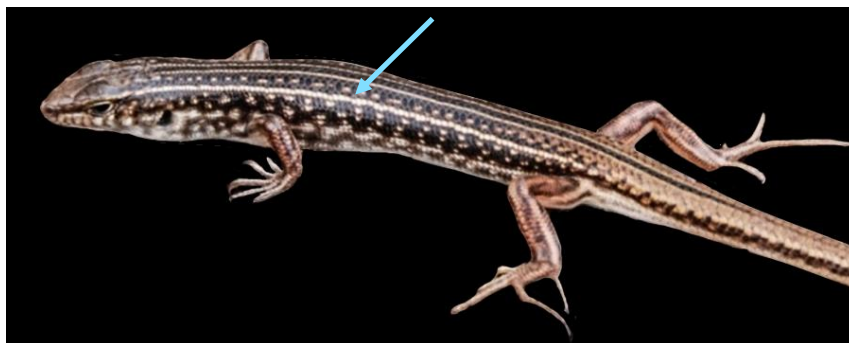
- 24.** a. Dark laterodorsal zone completely encloses a series of pale spots or dashes; straight-edged pale dorsolateral line well-developed
b. Back pattern variable; if light laterodorsal spots present, they are not completely enclosed by the relatively narrow dark laterodorsal zone; pale dorsolateral line may be present and distinct, absent, diffuse, or only obvious anteriorly

C. orientalis

Spotted Ctenotus

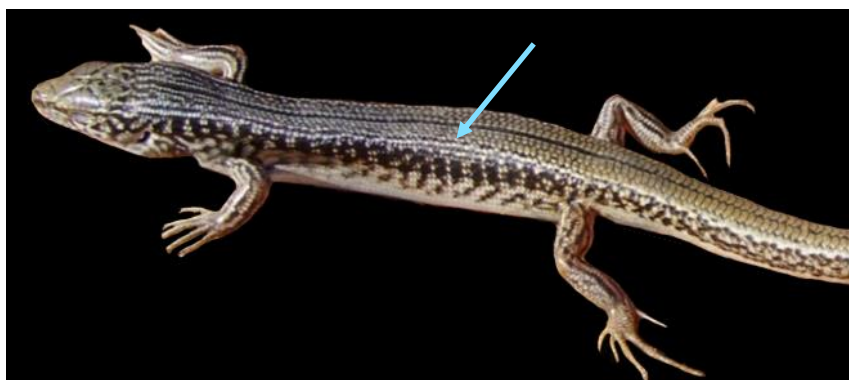
C. olympicus

Saltbush Ctenotus



Ctenotus orientalis

24a. Black laterodorsal zone contains a row of pale spots



Ctenotus olympicus

24b. Laterodorsal spots weak or absent

KEY TO THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SPECIES OF *CYCLODOMORPHUS*

1. a. Body uniformly coloured, predominantly olive or greenish; juveniles of some populations with dark head and (often) white spotted body; neck without dark markings ***C. melanops***
Spinifex Slender
Bluetongue
- b. Body predominantly grey-brown to beige with strong black markings on the sides of the neck and fore-body forming a series of vertical bars; northern populations (Lake Eyre Basin) almost unpatterned apart from neck markings; southern populations (Flinders Ranges) more strongly patterned, additionally having white-edged dark blotches forming transverse bands on body and tail. ***C. venustus***
Saltbush Slender
Bluetongue



Cyclodomorphus melanops

1a. Adult, uniformly coloured



Cyclodomorphus melanops

1a. Juvenile, with a darker head & spotted body



Cyclodomorphus venustus

1b. Weakly marked northern form; dorsal & lateral views, showing black markings on neck



Cyclodomorphus venustus

1b. Strongly patterned southern form

KEY TO THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SPECIES OF *EGERNIA*

1. a. Each dorsal body and caudal scale with a sharp, projecting spine 2
- b. Dorsal scales not spiny 3



Egernia cunninghami

1a. Dorsal & caudal scales with sharp projecting spine

2. a. Tail cylindrical and tapering to a slender tip, about as long as the body ***E. cunninghami***
Cunningham's Skink
- b. Tail broad, blunt and flattened, much shorter than body ***E. stokesii***
Gidgee Skink



Egernia cunninghami

2a. Tail cylindrical & tapering to a slender tip (see also fig 1a, above)



Egernia stokesii

2b. Tail broad, blunt & flattened

3. a. Scales along mid-dorsal region of tail about twice as wide as adjacent scales; eastern SA, west to the Gawler Ranges; mainly rock-dwelling where it overlaps with *E. richardi* ***E. striolata***
Tree Skink
- b. All dorsal scales of tail approximately equal in size; western SA, east to the Gawler Ranges; mainly tree-dwelling where it overlaps with *E. striolata* ***E. richardi***
Bight Crevice Skink



Egernia striolata



Egernia richardi

3a. Mid-dorsal tail scales about twice as wide as adjacent scales



Egernia striolata

3a. Typical arboreal colour pattern

3b. All dorsal tail scales of similar size



Egernia richardi (photo: Brian Bush)

3b. Typical arboreal colour pattern



Egernia striolata (Mt Barker)

3a. Dark, rock-dwelling colour pattern



Egernia richardi (Nullarbor coast)

3b. Dark, rock-dwelling colour pattern

Key to the South Australian Species of *Eremiascincus*

1. a. Well-developed pattern of equally wide dark and light cross-bands on both body and tail ***E. richardsonii***
Broad-banded
Sandswimmer
- b. No banding on body or any banding weak and poorly contrasting (Figs. 2a & 2b, below); some Lake Eyre Basin animals completely patternless **2**



Eremiascincus richardsonii

1a. Well-developed bands on body and tail

2. a. General colour pale sandy-yellow to flesh colour, without banding on dorsum, occasionally fine banding dorsolaterally; pale brown poorly-contrasting transverse tail bands, sometimes absent; usually eight upper labial scales; east of Stuart Highway ***E. phantasmus***
Ghost Skink
- b. General colour golden yellow-brown; without banding on dorsum or with transverse pale brown dorsolateral bands; dark narrow contrasting transverse bands on the tail; usually seven upper labials; west of Stuart Highway ***E. pallidus***
Western Narrow-banded
Sandswimmer



Eremiascincus phantasmus

2a. Sandy-yellow to flesh coloured, with pale, poorly contrasting tail banding



Eremiascincus pallidus

2b. Golden-brown colour with more distinct bands on tail

KEY TO THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SPECIES OF *EULAMPRUS*

1. a. A narrow pale yellow to golden dorsolateral line running from behind the eye separates the black lateral colouring from the brown back ***E. quoyii***
Eastern Water Skink
- b. No gold dorsolateral line **2**



Eulamprus quoyii



Eulamprus heatwolei

- 1a. Pale yellow to gold dorsolateral line
- 1b. No yellow to gold dorsolateral line
2. a. Strong cream stripe from forearm, under the ear and along the lower jaw; throat and neck with bold black blotches; belly immaculate bright yellow ***E. heatwolei***
Yellow-bellied Water Skink
- b. No strong cream stripe from forearm to jaw; throat and neck pale greyish with weakly contrasting darker smudges; belly variable, but usually cream to dull greenish-yellow and often with scattered small black flecks ***E. tympanum***
Southern Water Skink



Eulamprus heatwolei



Eulamprus tympanum

- 2a. Pale lip and neck stripe, outlined by strong black and white throat and neck markings

- 2b. No Pale lip and neck stripe, throat and neck dull greyish or cream with weak darker smudges

KEY TO THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SPECIES OF *HEMIERGIS*

1. a. Five fingers and toes 2
b. Fewer than five fingers and toes 3
2. a. Third and fourth toes equal in length; dark brown above with black irregular temporal stripe often continuing into a dorsolateral stripe or line of dark markings, and usually a pair of paravertebral lines; belly intense yellow to orange ***H. initialis***
Western Five-toed Earless Skink
b. Fourth toe longer than third; plain grey brown to dull pinkish-orange, with no black dorsal pigment; belly pale yellow ***H. millewae***
Rusty Earless Skink



Hemiergis initialis

2a. Dark temporal stripe



Hemiergis millewae

2b. No dark temporal stripe



Hemiergis initialis

2a. Pair of paravertebral lines and two longest rear toes same length

3. a. Four fingers and toes ***H. peronii***
Four-toed Earless Skink
b. Three fingers and toes ***H. decresiensis***
Southern Earless Skink

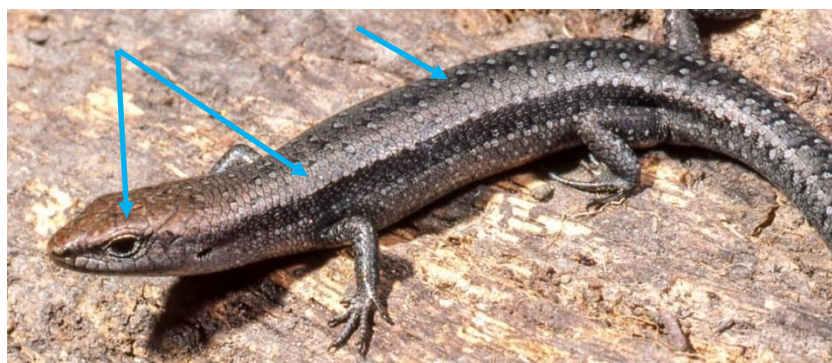
KEY TO THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SPECIES OF *LAMPROPHOLIS*

1. a. Top of head and back similarly coloured, uniform brown; no dark vertebral stripe; usually a narrow, golden dorsolateral line; seven supraciliaries ***L. delicata***
Delicate Skink
- b. Top of head and back differently coloured, head coppery brown, back grey; black vertebral stripe present but often weakly contrasting; usually no pale dorsolateral line; usually six supraciliaries (range 5-7) ***L. guichenoti***
Garden Skink



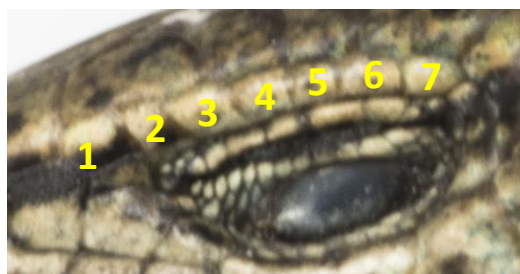
Lampropholis delicata

1a. Top of head and body same colour; no dark vertebral stripe



Lampropholis guichenoti

1b. Top of head brownish, body greyish; weak dark vertebral stripe usually present



Lampropholis delicata

1a. Seven supraciliaries



Lampropholis guichenoti

1b. Six supraciliaries

KEY TO THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SPECIES OF *LERISTA*

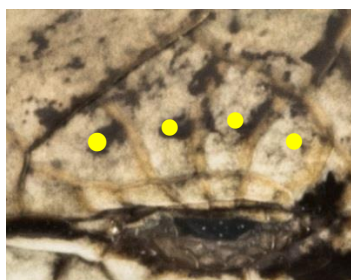
Note that throughout 'toes' applies only to hind limbs and 'fingers' to forelimbs.

1. a. Five fingers and toes 2
- b. Fewer than five fingers and toes 4
2. a. Three supraoculars ***L. bougainvillii***
Southeastern Slider
- b. Four supraoculars 3



Lerista bougainvillii

2a. Three supraoculars



Lerista arenicola

2b. Four supraoculars

Note: Supraocular scales begin with the scale posterior to the prefrontal and end with the scale anterior to the parietal scale

3. a. Strong body pattern with wide straight-edged black upper lateral stripe, margined above and below by pale stripes; weak to strong black paravertebral stripes; usually a prominent black lower lateral stripe ***L. microtis***
Long-legged Slider
- b. Weak body pattern with narrow more ragged-edged black upper lateral stripe; white dorsolateral, dark paravertebral and lower lateral stripes poorly contrasting or absent; sandy-grey dorsal colouring (pattern more obvious in juveniles) ***L. arenicola***
Beach Slider



Lerista microtis

3a. Strong black and white side stripes

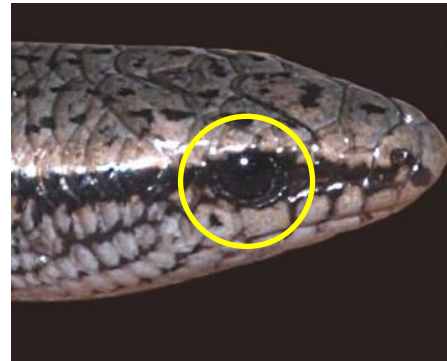


Lerista arenicola

3b. White lateral stripe with weak black upper margin

4. a. Four fingers and toes 5
- b. Fewer than four fingers and toes 8

- 5 a. Eyelids moveable, the lower lid with a transparent disc L. dorsalis Southern Slider
b. Eyelids immovable, the lower eyelid forming a completely transparent spectacle 6

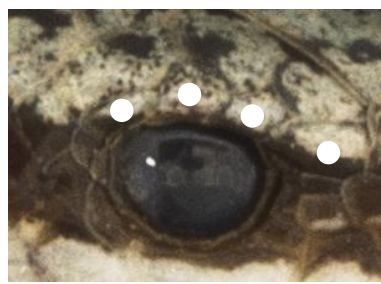
*Lerista dorsalis***5a.** Eyelid movable (note elliptical eye shape)*Lerista timida***5b.** Eyelid immovable, (note circular eye shape)

6. a. Faint brown lateral line or series of spots from snout to base of tail; body pale sandy beige colour, yellowish tail. . . . **L. aericeps** Yellow-tailed Slider
b. Strong black lateral stripe from the base of the tail to the snout 7

*Lerista aericeps***6a.** Without strong dark lateral stripe*Lerista taeniata***6b.** Black lateral stripe present

- 7 a. Back sandy orange; sides with a single black longitudinal upper lateral stripe (Fig 6b, above); five supraciliary scales (small second supraciliary present) **L. taeniata** Ribbon Slider
b. Back grey-brown; sides with a broad, black upper lateral stripe and a second faint lower lateral dark line which outline a white midlateral stripe; four supraciliary scales (small second supraciliary absent) **L. distinguenda** Southwestern Four-toed Slider

*Lerista taeniata***7a.** Single black lateral stripe*Lerista distinguenda***7b.** Strong white stripe below the black lateral stripe, outlined in black

*Lerista taeniata***7a.** Five supraciliary scales*Lerista distinguenda***7b.** Four supraciliary scales

- | | | |
|-----------|--|---|
| 8 | a. Three fingers.
b. Fewer than three fingers | 9
12 |
| 9 | a. Eyelids immoveable, the lower eyelid forming a completely transparent spectacle (fig. 5b)
b. Eyelids moveable, the lower lid with a transparent disc | <i>L. timida</i>
Dwarf Three-toed Slider
10 |
| 10 | a. Back a uniform light golden to greyish-brown, contrasting sharply with a broad sharp-edged black upper lateral stripe; no white midlateral stripe.
b. Back medium to chocolate brown, with a black upper lateral stripe that may be broad or thin, sharp or ragged-edged; with or without a white midlateral stripe. | <i>L. elongata</i>
Woomera Slider
11 |

*Lerista elongata***10a.** Uniform light golden back*Lerista speciosa***10b.** Medium brown to chocolate brown back

- | | | |
|-----------|---|--|
| 11 | a. Sharply defined black lateral stripe has an equally well defined white stripe on its lower margin (fig. 10b); known only from the Musgrave Ranges | <i>L. speciosa</i>
Musgrave Slider |
|-----------|---|--|

- b. Upper and lower edges of black lateral stripe tend to merge with background colour; no white midlateral stripe; southern coast and hinterland, east as far as Adelaide *L. terdigitata*
Southern Three-toed Slider

*Lerista terdigitata*

11b. Black lateral stripe not sharp-edged, no white midlateral stripe

- 12** a. Three toes *L. desertorum*
Great Desert Slider
- b. Two toes **13**
- 13** a. Forelimbs present, very small **14**
- b. Forelimbs absent. **15**
- 14** a. No dark lateral line; forelimb with one or two fingers with distinct claw; eastern SA, west to the Flinders Ranges *L. punctatovittata*
Spotted Slider
- b. Dark upper lateral lines present; tiny forelimb without distinct claw; far west coastal areas, east to the Head of the Bight *L. baynesi*
Speckled Slider

*Lerista punctatovittata*

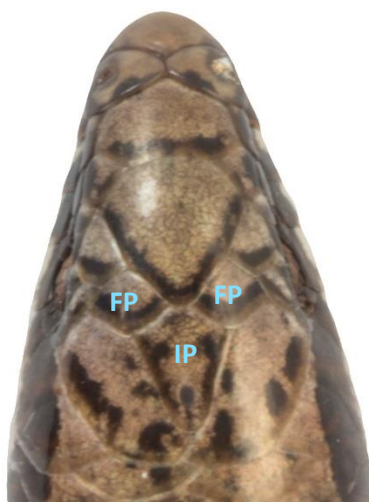
14a. No dark lateral lines

*Lerista baynesi*

14b. Dark lateral lines

- 15** a. Frontoparietals paired, interparietal distinct; large size (up to 100 mm SVL); belly pale lemon yellow *L. edwardsae*
Myall Slider

- b. Frontoparietals and interparietal fused to form a single shield; small (less than 60 mm SVL); belly translucent whitish
..... 16



Lerista edwardsae

- 15a.** Frontoparietals paired, interparietal distinct



Lerista bipes

- 15b.** Frontoparietals and interparietal fused into a single shield

- 16** a. Third upper labial below the eye; two supraciliaries
b. Fourth upper labial below the eye; no supraciliaries

L. bipes
Western Two-toed Slider
L. labialis
Eastern Two-toed Slider



Lerista bipes

- 16a.** Third upper labial below the eye



Lerista labialis

- 16b.** Fourth upper labial below the eye

KEY TO THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SPECIES OF *LIOPHOLIS*

1. a. Background colour of body pale sandy to bright reddish orange; dorsal and head scales highly polished and glossy . . . 2
- b. Background colour of body earthy grey, fawn or brown; dorsal and head scales smooth and shiny but not highly glossed . . . 4



Liopholis striata

- 1a. Background body colour pale sandy to bright reddish orange (refer also to figs. 3a and 3b)



Liopholis personata

- 1b. Background body colour grey to brown

2. a. Pupil vertically elliptical in bright light ***L. striata***
Night Skink
- b. Pupil round to slightly oval in bright light **3**



Liopholis striata

- 2a. Vertically elliptical pupil



Liopholis inornata

- 2b. Round pupil

3.
 - a. Sides, and sometimes the back, with scattered to numerous small dark flecks; belly pearly white in life; small (to 90 mm SVL) ***L. inornata***
Desert Skink
 - b. Sides mottled blue-grey or pale orange; no blackish dorsal or lateral flecks; belly lemon yellow in life; large (to 200 mm SVL) ***L. kintorei***
Tjakura



Liopholis inornata

3a. Dark flecks on sides and sometimes also on back



Liopholis kintorei

3b. Pale orange mottled sides without black flecks

The following species share similar colour pattern variations, from completely plain to patterned with dorsal lines and spots and spotted sides. This creates the problem that individuals of different species with the same colour pattern type can look more similar to one another than individuals of the same species that have differing colour pattern variants. Distribution will assist identification but note that some species overlap in a few parts of their range. Confirmation of identity may depend on scale features.



Liopholis whitii

Strongly patterned with distinct pale spots



Liopholis whitii

Patternless; back may be rust or grey-brown

4.
 - a. Pattern includes a black vertebral stripe and broken black dorsal lines; **only known from far north** in the vicinity of Oodnadatta. ***L. slateri virgata***
Black-striped Skink
 - b. No black vertebral stripe; If strong dorsal pattern, black dorsolateral stripes enclose pale spots 5



Liopholis slateri virgata (Glenn Shea)

5a. Back with a black vertebral stripe and black dashes



Liopholis multiscutata

5b. Back with no black vertebral stripe but a pair of black stripes, each enclosing small pale spots

- 5.**
- a.** Upper and lower lip scales dark-edged or marked with blackish vertical bars; dorsal black stripes (when present) each enclosing a double series of small pale spots; subdigital lamellae under fourth toe with paired keels; interparietal shield in adults is as wide as the frontal
 - b.** Lips plain pale grey or with a dark-edged pale horizontal stripe; dorsal black stripes (when present) each enclosing a single series of small pale spots; subdigital lamellae under fourth toe with a single keel; interparietal shield in adults is markedly narrower than the frontal

L. multiscutata
Bull Skink

5



Liopholis multiscutata (Photo: Jules Farquhar)

5a. Upper and lower lips with vertical blackish bars



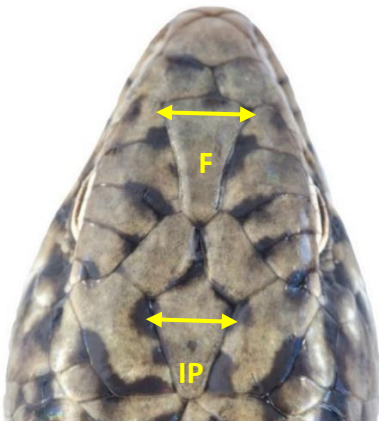
Liopholis whitii

5a. Upper lip unmarked



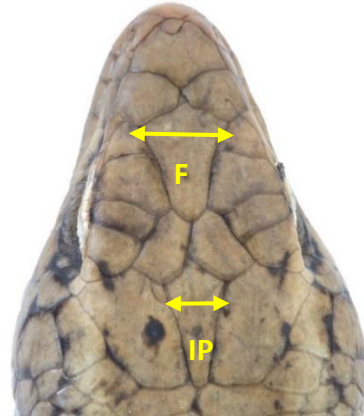
Liopholis whitii

5a. Upper lip with horizontal, dark-edged pale stripe



Liopholis multiscutata

5a. Interparietal as wide as frontal



Liopholis personata

5b. Interparietal narrower than frontal



Liopholis multiscutata

4a. Underside of toe with two keels (ridges) on each scale



Liopholis whitii

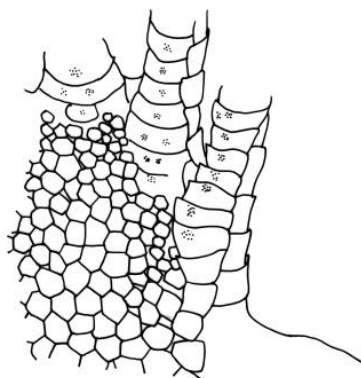
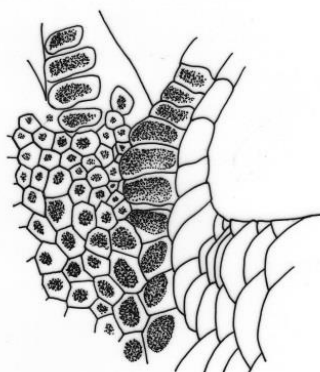
4b. Underside of toe with a single ridge or callus on each scale (Illust: Delma Corazon)

- 6. a.** Temperate southern SA; lateral spots when present are pale yellow blotches, each surrounded by a black outline, on a light grey background; subdigital lamellae and soles of the feet greyish and small

L. whitii
White's Skink

- b. Flinders Ranges, and the Mann Ranges of the APY Lands; lateral spots when present are small and whitish on a blackish background; subdigital lamellae and soles of the feet black and enlarged

7

*Liopholis whitii**Liopholis personata*

6a. Soles of feet weakly pigmented, scales flat

6b. Soles of feet blackish, scales rounded

(Illustrations: Delma Corazon)

7. a. Flinders Ranges and adjacent rocky hills; usually a pale dorsal zone that is distinct from the lateral colouring ***L. personata***
Flinders Ranges
Rock Skink
- b. Musgrave and Mann Ranges of far northwestern SA; dorsal and lateral colouring similar and plain. ***L. margaretae***
Central Ranges
Rock Skink

KEY TO THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SPECIES OF *MORETHIA*

1. a. Body black with bold white dorsolateral and midlateral stripes *M. ruficauda*
that run on to the side of the face; tail brilliant red Fire-tailed Skink
- b. Body brown to grey; no bold, straight-edged white
dorsolateral stripe 2



Morethia ruficauda

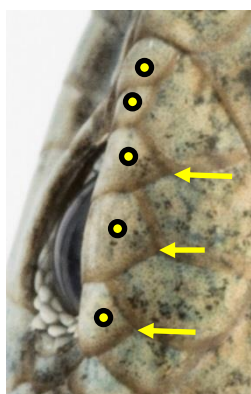
- 1a. Bold black and white body pattern; bright red tail and hind limbs

The remaining four species of brownish, dark-sided skinks can be difficult to identify. A reliable feature is the way in which the supraciliary ("eyebrow") scales contact the adjacent large supraoculars. The number that form an interlocking zig-zag joint with the supraoculars is unique for each species. White spots indicate supraciliary scales; arrows show those that interlock with supraocular scales



Morethia butleri

- 2a. No interlocking
supraciliaries



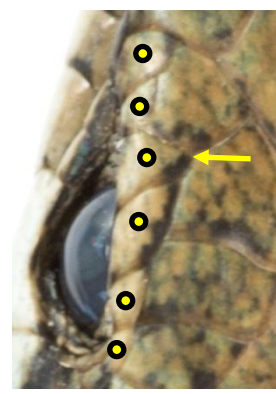
Morethia adalaidensis

- 3a. 3 interlocking
supraciliaries



Morethia obscura

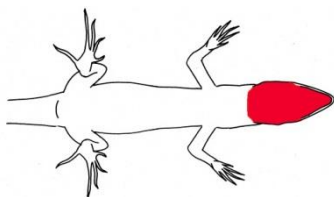
- 4a. 2 interlocking
supraciliaries



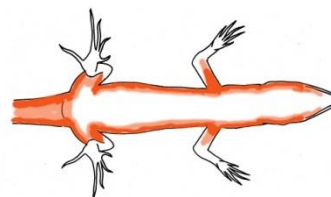
Morethia boulengeri

- 4b. 1 interlocking
supraciliary

Male breeding colouring can help separate these four species. In three, the throat is red but in *M. adalaidensis* males lack red throat pigment but have red-orange to pink colouring around the edges of the belly and under the legs and tail.



2a, 4a, 4b. Males with red throat.



3a. Males with red edging on underside.

2. a. Lateral dark stripe fades posterior to the forelimb; the supraciliary row forms a straight-line contact without penetration between the supraoculars (fig. 2a on previous page)
- b. Lateral dark stripe or zone of dark spots continues along flanks to the level of the hindlimbs; one or more supraciliaries enlarged to form an interlocking zigzag contact with the supraoculars

M. butleri

Woodland Morethia

3*Morethia butleri***2a.** Lateral dark stripe fades after the forelimb

3. a. Dark double stripe or double row row of blotches down the middle of the back; upper lateral and white midlateral stripe ragged-edged, often broken up; the 3rd, 4th and 5th supraciliaries form an interlocking zigzag contact with the supraoculars (fig. 3a on previous page)
- b. No double series of dark dorsal lines or spots; upper lateral dark stripe straight-edged, but may fade posteriorly

M. adelaidensis

Saltbush Morethia

4*Morethia adelaidensis***3a.** Double series of dark blotches run down back; white lateral stripe irregular

4. a. Dorsal pattern includes a few to many scales which are blackish with a white central dot; the 3rd and 4th supraciliaries interlock with the supraoculars (fig. 4a on previous page)
- b. Back uniform brown or with black flecks or fine black speckles down the mid-dorsal area; only the 3rd supraciliary interlocks with the supraoculars (fig. 4b on previous page)

M. obscura

Shrubland Morethia

M. boulengeri

Eastern Morethia



Morethia obscura

4a. Dorsal pattern with darkish scales containing a pale central dot (some specimens much plainer with few dots and no lateral stripes)



Morethia boulengeri

4b. Dorsal pattern uniformly brown or with small black flecks; lateral stripes prominent

KEY TO THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SPECIES OF *PSEUDEMOIA*

1. a. Light ragged-edged midlateral stripe irregular, often poorly developed and broken up by dark flecks. ***P. entrecasteauxii***
Southern Grass Skink
- b. Light midlateral stripe well developed and straight-edged. 2



Pseudemoia entrecasteauxii

- 1a.** Speckled midlateral stripe (red in breeding males)



Pseudemoia rawlinsoni

- 2a.** Straight-edged midlateral stripe



Pseudemoia pagenstecheri

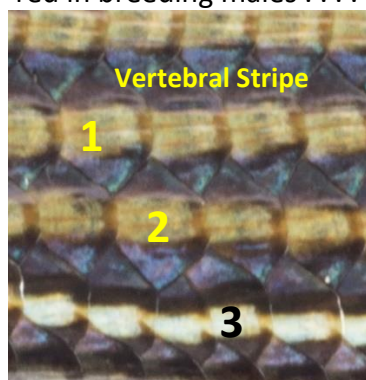
- 1b.** Straight-edged midlateral stripe (red in breeding males)



Pseudemoia baudini

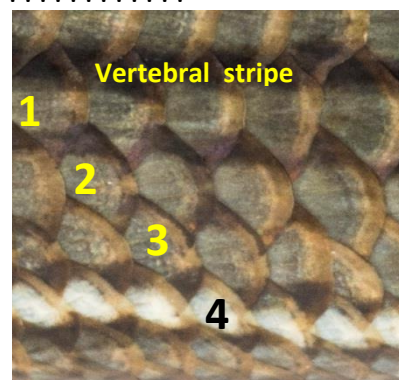
- 1b.** Straight-edged midlateral stripe

2. a. Coast of the Great Australian bight east as far as Lincoln National Park ***P. baudini***
Bight Coast Skink
- b. Lower southeast of SA, south of a line from from about Robe to Naracoorte 3
2. a. Light dorsolateral stripe runs along third scale row on each side; midlateral stripe always white. ***P. rawlinsoni***
Glossy Grass Skink
- b. Light dorsolateral stripe runs along the fourth, or third-plus-fourth, scale row on each side; midlateral stripe orange to red in breeding males ***P. pagenstecheri***
Tussock Skink



Pseudemoia rawlinsoni

- 3a.** Light stripe on scale row three



Pseudemoia pagenstecheri

- 3b.** Light stripe on scale row four



Pseudemoia rawlinsoni

3a. Six supraciliaries



Pseudemoia pagenstecheri

3b. Five supraciliaries

Key to the South Australian Species of *Tiliqua*

1. a. Dorsal body scales very enlarged, pine cone-like; head shields fragmented into a mosaic of polygonal scales; tail short, flat and blunt-tipped ***T. rugosa***
Sleepy Lizard (Shingleback)
- b. Dorsal body scales small and smooth; head shields not fragmented; tail cylindrical and tapers to a point **2**



Tiliqua rugosa with neonates

- 1a. Readily identifiable scale type & body shape
2. a. Body pattern consists of speckles or blotches (may be completely plain on some *Tiliqua adalaidensis*) **3**
- b. Body pattern consists of light and dark cross-bands **4**



Tiliqua adalaidensis

2a. Dark-speckled or plain body pattern



Tiliqua nigrolutea

2a. Pale-blotched body pattern



Tiliqua scincoides

2b. Distinctly banded body pattern

3.
 - a. Tongue pink; body size small (no more than 110 mm SVL); body plain or lightly to heavily speckled with small, irregular black spots. ***T. adalaidensis***
Pygmy Bluetongue
 - b. Tongue blue; body typical bluetongue size (up to about 260 mm SVL); blackish back patterned by series of large grey -brown blotches ***T. nigrolutea***
Blotched Bluetongue



Tiliqua adalaidensis

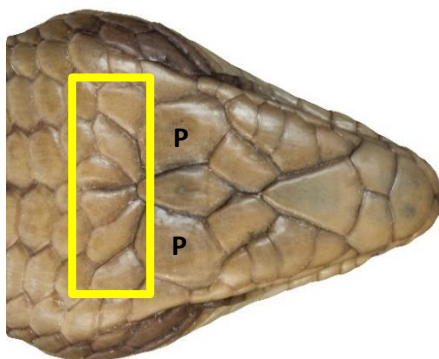
- 3a. Pink tongue; dorsal body pattern without large pale blotches



Tiliqua nigrolutea

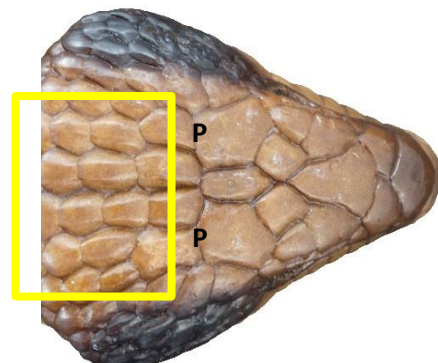
- 3b. Blue tongue; dorsal back pattern of grey-brown pale blotches

4.
 - a. Parietal scales (P) bordered posteriorly by irregularly arranged enlarged nuchal scales ***T. scincoides*** (Fig. 2b)
Eastern Bluetongue
 - b. Parietal scales (P) bordered posteriorly by several series of regularly arranged tile-like scales **5**



Tiliqua scincoides

- 4a. Irregularly arranged occipital scales



Tiliqua occipitalis

- 4b. More regular tile-like occipital scales

- | | | | |
|----------|-----------|--|---|
| 5 | a. | Body yellow to light brown banded in dark brown; three or four strongly contrasting tail bands | <i>T. occipitalis</i>
Western Bluetongue |
| | b. | Body pale grey with nine to fourteen orange cross-bands; tail weakly banded or uniform grey | <i>T. multifasciata</i>
Centralian Bluetongue |



Tiliqua occipitalis - Brightly banded colour pattern from sandy deserts



Tiliqua occipitalis - Dark colour pattern from hard soil habitats

- 5a.** Broadly banded body; tail usually with three dark bands



Tiliqua multifasciata

- 5b.** Numerous narrow (orange) cross-bands on body; plain tail

Lookup table for slender, elongate skinks with reduced limbs in S.A. (Addendum to Skinks of S.A. Key)

Each of these skinks has small fore and hind limbs that are widely separated. Some have no forelimbs at all. The tail tends to be the same diameter as the body for at least half its length. The body is narrow and elongate.

When checking fingers and toes, note that the outer fingers and toes can be very small – look carefully!

Cross-check identifications in the keys.

Fingers	Toes	Colour and Pattern			Tail	Genus and species	Common name	Additional details
		Back	Side	Belly				
5	5	olive (some juveniles with pale spots)	paler version of back	cream to pale yellow with orange speckling	colour same as body	<i>Cyclodomorphus melanops</i>	Spinifex Slender Bluetongue	large – to 20 cm total length
5	5	grey-brown with dark spotting	vertical dark bars on neck	off-white with dark speckling	colour same as body	<i>Cyclodomorphus venustus</i>	Saltbush Slender Bluetongue	large – to 20 cm total length
5	5	dark brown	blackish brown	bright yellow to orange	colour same as body	<i>Hemiergis initialis</i>	Western Earless Skink	
5	5	light tan to orange-brown	light tan to orange-brown	pale yellow	colour same as body	<i>Hemiergis millewae</i>	Rusty Earless Skink	
5	5	pale sandy beige, unmarked	weak lateral dark stripe	white	adult undertail pale yellowish; juvenile tail bright red	<i>Lerista arenicola</i>	Beach Slider	
5	5	light to dark brown, often with a weak pair of dark lines	strong black lateral stripe edged below by white	translucent white sometimes flushed with yellow and with dark speckles	adult undertail bright yellowish to orange; juvenile tail bright red	<i>Lerista bougainvillii</i>	Southeastern Slider	
5	5	medium grey-brown, with a pair of black lines	strong black lateral stripe edged above and below by white, and a second narrower black lower lateral stripe	white	adult undertail pale yellowish; juvenile tail bright red	<i>Lerista microtis</i>	Long-Legged Slider	

4	5	light to dark brown	black lateral stripe edged below by white	off-white; yellow in breeding males	colour same as body	<i>Menetia greyii</i>	Common Dwarf Skink	
4 (or 5)	4 (or 5)	medium to dark brown	blackish brown	bright yellow	colour same as body	<i>Anepischetosia maccoyi</i>	Salamander Skink	4 - 4 is most common toe arrangement for SA specimens
4	4	pale orange-brown to very dark brown, with a pair of narrow to prominent black stripes	plain or with variably developed ragged black dorsolateral stripe	bright yellow	same as body; tail often with dark spots on the yellow background colour	<i>Hemiergis peronii</i>	Four-Toed Earless Skink	
4	4	pale sandy beige, unmarked	pale sandy beige, unmarked	translucent white	undertail bright yellow or orange-yellow	<i>Lerista aericeps</i>	Yellow-Tailed Slider	
4	4	light brown	strong black lateral stripe, edged below with a white stripe	translucent white	adult undertail orange-yellow; juvenile red	<i>Lerista distinguenda</i>	Southwestern Four-Toed Slider	Eye with a spectacle instead of moveable eyelids
4	4	light brown, with narrow dark dorsal lines	strong black lateral stripe, edged below with a white stripe	translucent white	adult undertail yellowish to orange; juvenile tail red	<i>Lerista dorsalis</i>	Southern Four-Toed Slider	Eye with moveable eyelids
4	4	bright sandy-tan	narrow black lateral stripe - no white edging	translucent whitish	adult, same as body; juvenile probably red	<i>Lerista taeniata</i>	Ribbon Slider	
3 or 4	3 or 4	medium to dark brown	blackish brown	bright yellow	colour same as body	<i>Anepischetosia maccoyi</i>	Salamander Skink	3-3 and 4-3 individuals known from Canunda NP
3	3	mid- to dark brown	blackish brown	bright yellow	colour same as body	<i>Hemiergis decresiensis</i>	Three-Toed Earless Skink	
3	3	pale golden brown	strong black lateral stripe	white, most scales with a dark dot	colour same as body	<i>Lerista elongata</i>	Woomera Slider	Confined to the western half of the Lake Eyre basin
3	3	mid- to dark brown, unmarked, or with a pair of black dorsal lines	strong black lateral stripe, edged below with a white stripe	white, most scales with a dark dot	colour same as body	<i>Lerista speciosa</i>	Musgrave Slider	Confined to the Musgrave Ranges of the far NW of SA

3	3	mid- to dark brown, often with a weak pair of dark lines	black lateral stripe, lower edge merges with underside colouring	white, most scales with a dark dot	colour same as body	<i>Lerista terdigitata</i>	Southern Three-Toed Slider	
3	3	pale golden brown to dark brown	thin dark lateral stripe	translucent whitish	adult undertail orange-yellow; juvenile red	<i>Lerista timida</i>	Dwarf Three-Toed Slider	
2	3	pale grey-brown, with a pair of narrow dorsal lines	strong black lateral stripe	pale yellow	adult colour same as body; juvenile red	<i>Lerista desertorum</i>	Great Desert Slider	
1 (or 2)	2	pale pinkish brown, most scales with a dark spot, especially towards the sides and rear of the body	paler version of back	translucent whitish	colour same as body	<i>Lerista punctatovittata</i>	Spotted Slider	2-fingered individuals are rare
1	2	pale grey-brown, with a faint pair of narrow dorsal lines	weak lateral dark stripe	translucent whitish	colour same as body	<i>Lerista baynesi</i>	Speckled Slider	SA populations confined to far SW corner, adjacent to the Bight coast and the WA border
0	2	pale grey-brown, with a pair of strong dark dorsal lines	strong black lateral stripe	pale yellow	colour same as body	<i>Lerista edwardsae</i>	Myall Slider	Adults much larger than the next two species and with paired frontoparietal scales
0	2	sandy pale brown with a pair of thin dark dorsal lines	strong black lateral stripe	translucent whitish	colour same as body	<i>Lerista bipes</i>	Western Two-Toed Slider	3rd upper lip scale is below the eye
0	2	sandy yellow-orange with a pair of thin dark dorsal lines	strong black lateral stripe	translucent whitish	colour same as body	<i>Lerista labialis</i>	Eastern Two-Toed Slider	4th upper lip scale is below the eye