

# Key to the Dragons of South Australia



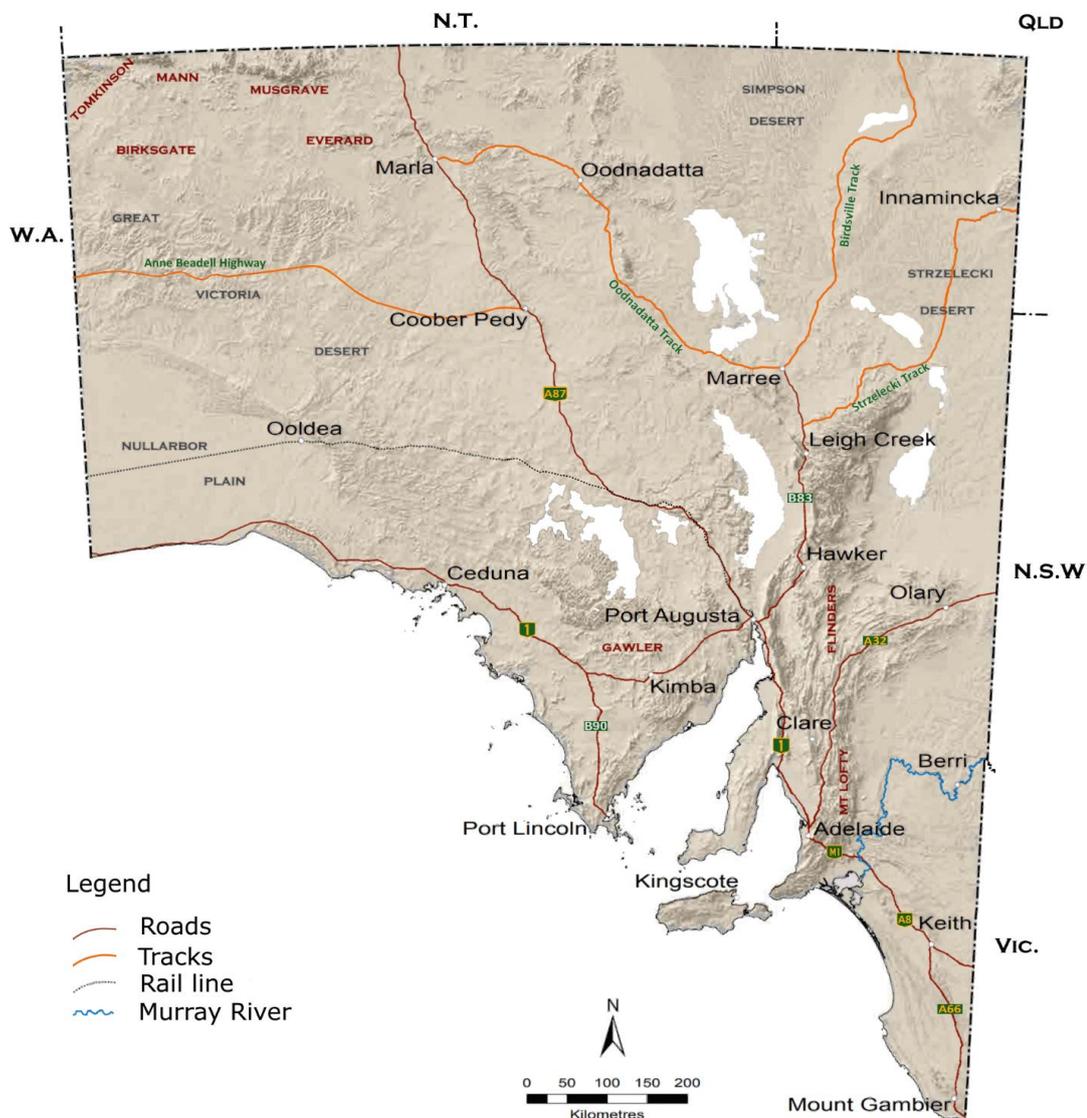
Thorny Devil, *Moloch horridus*

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# The Dragons of South Australia

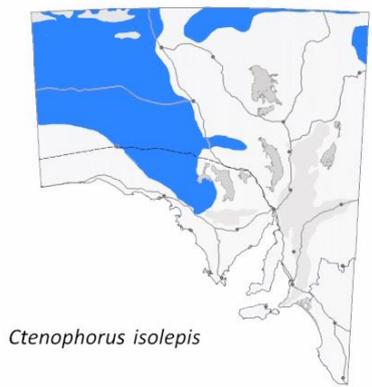
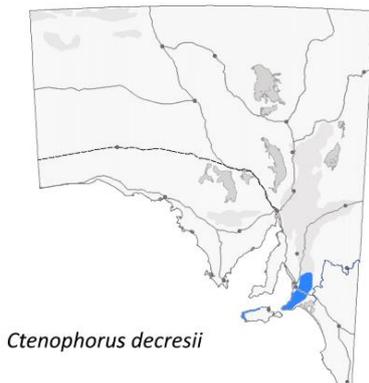
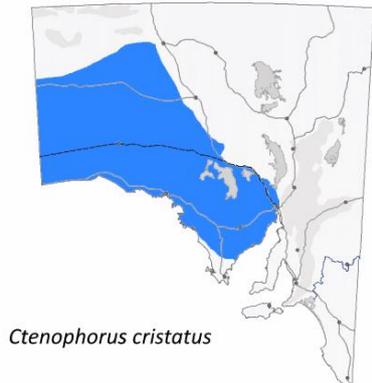
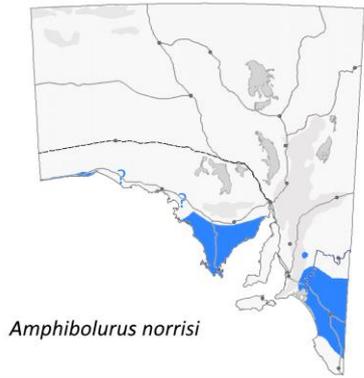
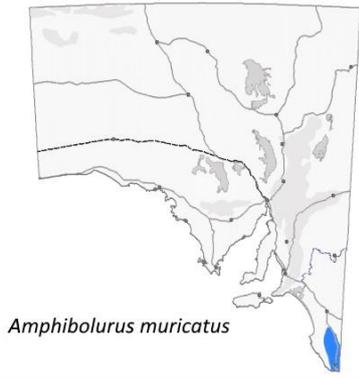
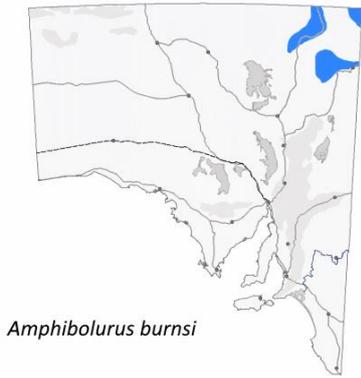
## Geographic Distribution



Map\* showing place names and geographical features as well as some main roads and major desert tracks, to assist with interpreting the following distribution maps.

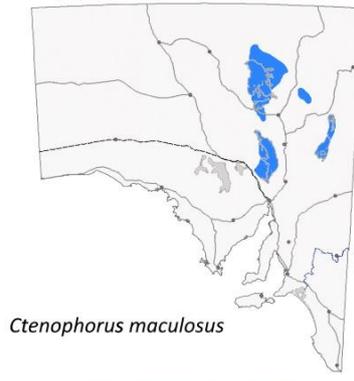
Distribution maps show known and likely occurrence, given suitable habitat. Introduced populations mapped in magenta.

\*modified from original by Department of Environment & Water.

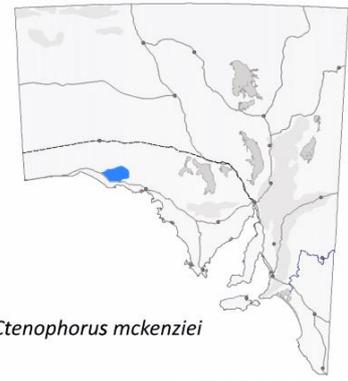




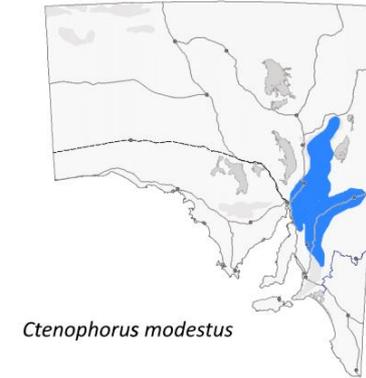
*Ctenophorus kartiwarri*



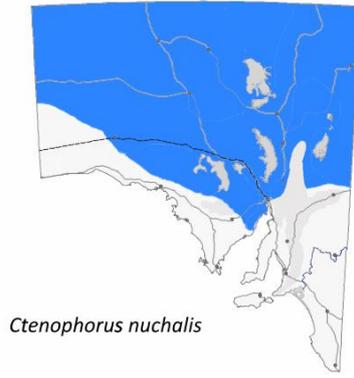
*Ctenophorus maculosus*



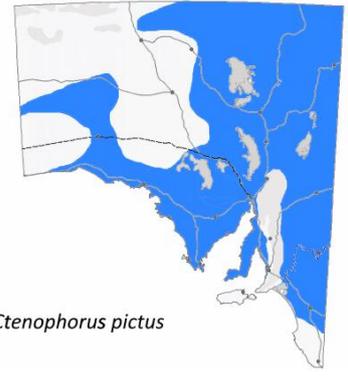
*Ctenophorus mckenziei*



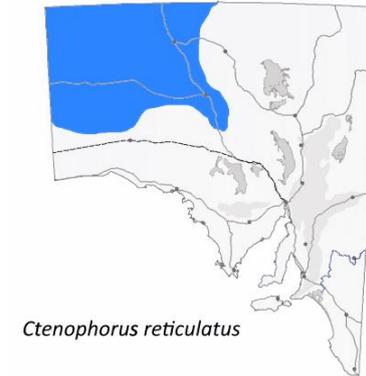
*Ctenophorus modestus*



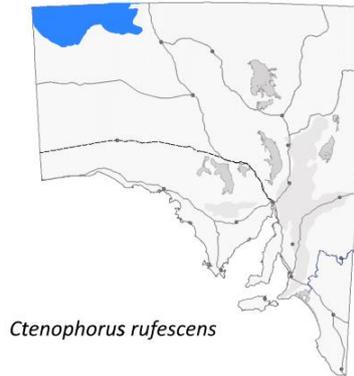
*Ctenophorus nuchalis*



*Ctenophorus pictus*



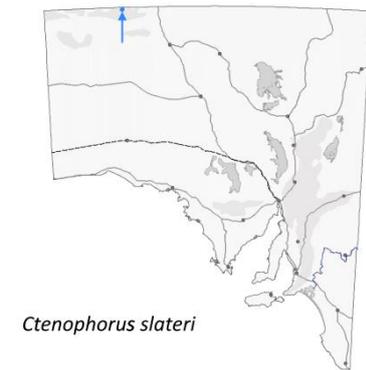
*Ctenophorus reticulatus*



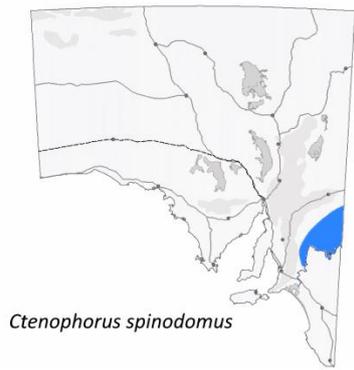
*Ctenophorus rufescens*



*Ctenophorus salinarum*



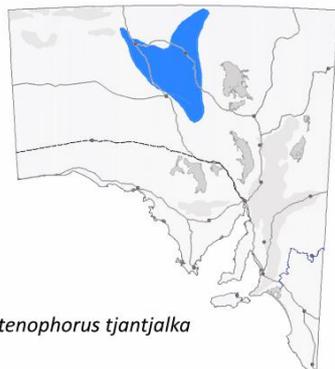
*Ctenophorus slateri*



*Ctenophorus spinodomus*



*Ctenophorus tjakalpa*



*Ctenophorus tjantjalka*



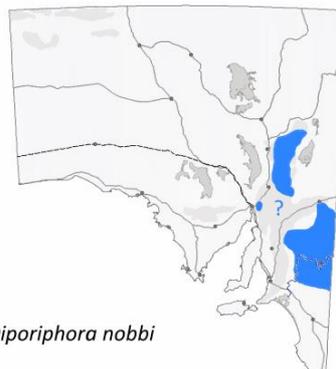
*Ctenophorus tuniluki*



*Ctenophorus vadrappa*



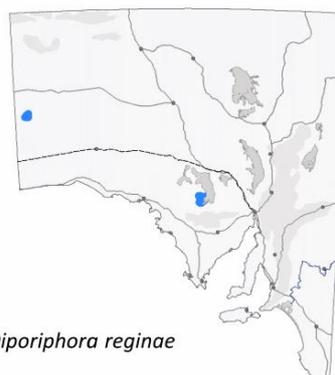
*Diporiphora linga*



*Diporiphora nobbi*



*Diporiphora paraconvergens*



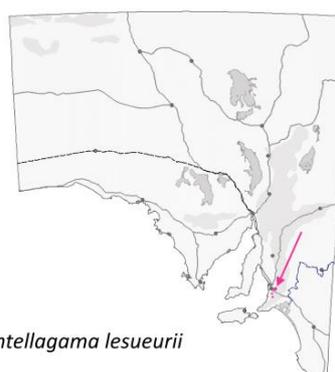
*Diporiphora reginae*



*Diporiphora winneckeii*



*Gowidon longirostris*



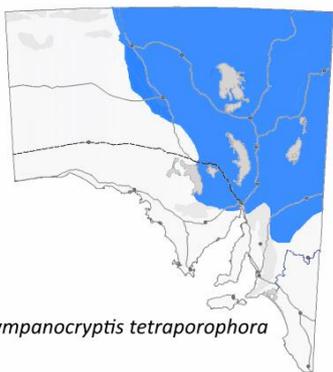
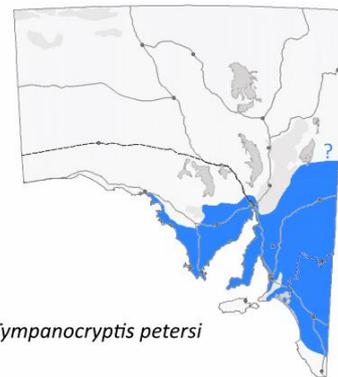
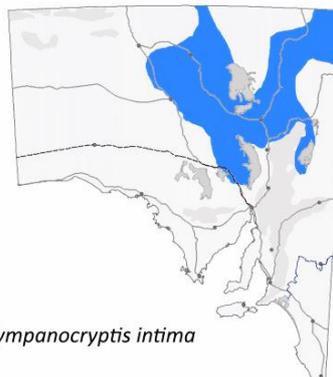
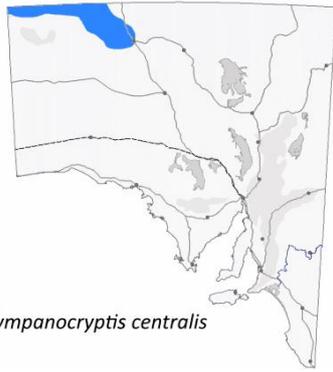
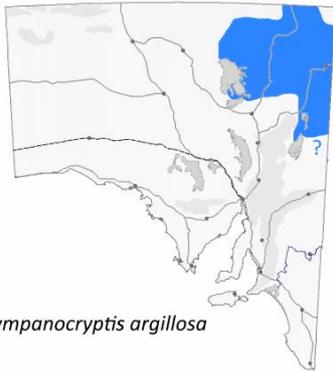
*Intelligama lesueurii*



*Moloch horridus*



*Pogona barbata*



## Key to the Dragons of South Australia

### Family Agamidae

**Femoral and precloacal pores.** *These are glandular structures that have the appearance of small holes or wax-filled pustules in scales that lie on the underside of the thighs, some scales immediately in front of the cloaca, or both. Their function is obscure but they are more obvious in males than females. Due to variation in the way that these pores are arranged they are often of use in making identifications. Close examination with a hand lens may be necessary to accurately determine the arrangement and number of these pores.*

**Head shape.** *Head shape is a useful identifying feature of dragons, but can cause problems because small body size tends to be associated with a more rounded head shape. The key refers to adult lizards, so be alert to the possibility that you have a juvenile of a larger species rather than an adult of a small species.*

1. a. Body and appendages covered with stout, erect spines, including horn-like spines above each eye, and the neck with a bulbous swelling bearing two large spines ..... ***Moloch horridus***  
Thorny Devil
- b. Not as above ..... **2**



**1a.** *Moloch horridus*

- 2. a. Body with very uneven scalation, including many medium and large spiny scales that are scattered across the back and do not form continuous crests . . . . . 3
- b. Body with very uniform scalation, either all virtually smooth or if any spiny scales present these form one or more continuous straight crests running along the body, including one down the middle of the back . . . . . 5



*Ctenophorus chapmani*

**2a.** Keeled and spiny body scales



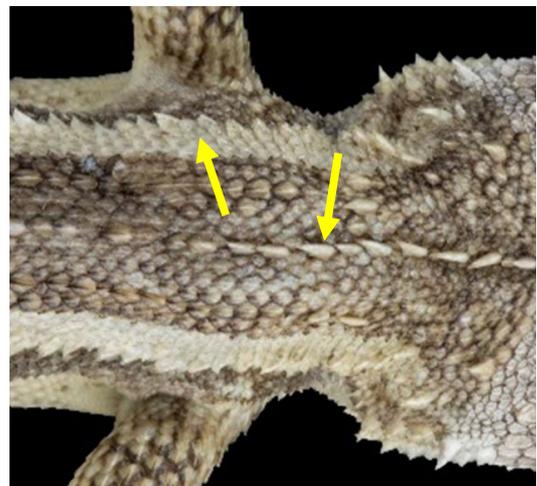
*Tympanocryptis tetraporophora*

**2a.** Scattered large spiny scales



*Ctenophorus salinarum*

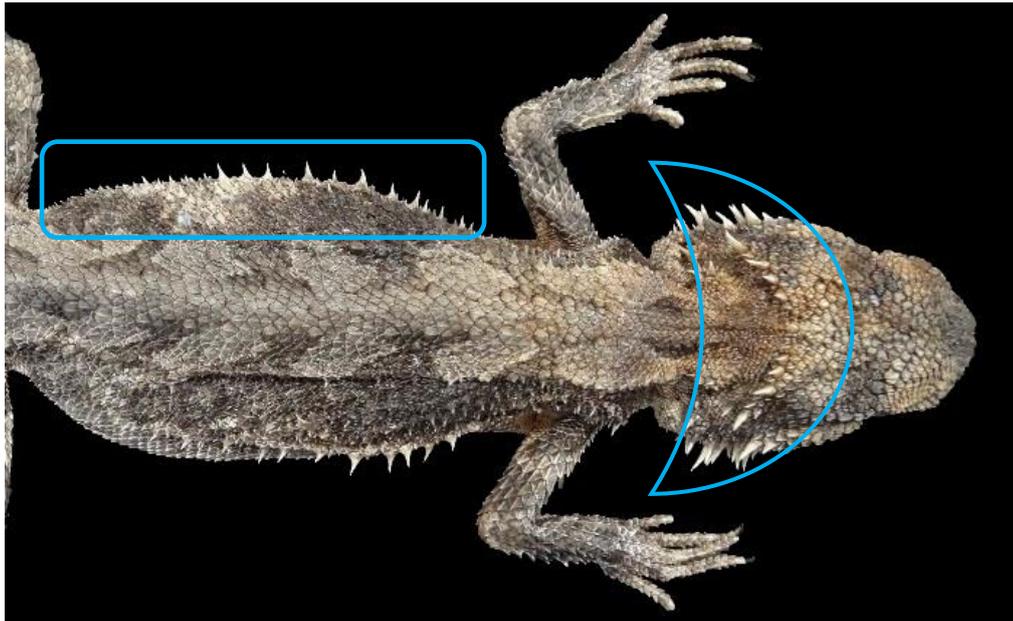
**2b.** Body scales lack spines



*Diporiphora nobbi*

**2b.** Spiny scales all small, arranged in straight crests

- 3. a. Back of head with a transverse row of spines; along each flank is a zone of scales that are markedly larger and more spinose than the adjacent dorsal scales . . . . . [Pogona](#) (p. 30)
- b. No transverse row of spines across back of head; flanks may have small spinose scales but not a continuous zone of large spines . . . . . 4



*Pogona minor*

**3a.** Rows of spines across back of head and along flanks

- 4. a. Ear drum missing, the area covered by scales; body scales of two sizes, with the larger scales bearing short spines . . . . . [\*Tympanocryptis\*](#) (p. 32)
- b. Ear drum visible . . . . . [\*Ctenophorus\*](#) (part) (p. 14)



*Tympanocryptis centralis*

**4a.** Ear drum absent



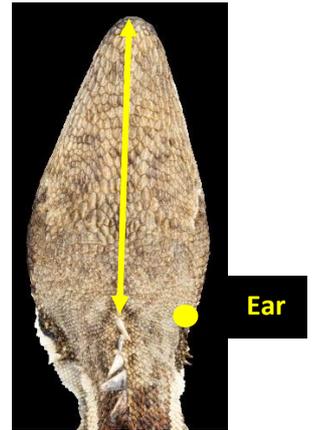
*Ctenophorus chapmani*

**4b.** Ear drum visible

- 5. a. Snout greatly elongate\*, distance from ear to tip of snout more than twice distance between the ears; body scales smooth except for small crest on nape and a vertebral row of slightly enlarged pointed scales . . . . . **Gowidon** (*G. longirostris*) Long-nosed Dragon
- b. Snout not greatly elongate, distance from ear to tip of snout less than twice the distance between the ears . . . . . **6**



5a. *G. longirostris*



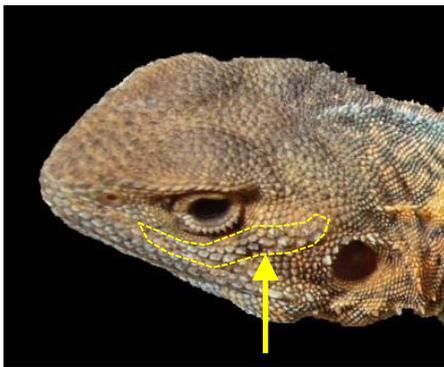
5a.

\*Hatchlings of this species have shorter snouts; may key to *Diporiphora* but note extremely long tail (2.5x head and body) and pale dorsolateral stripe not running full length of body.



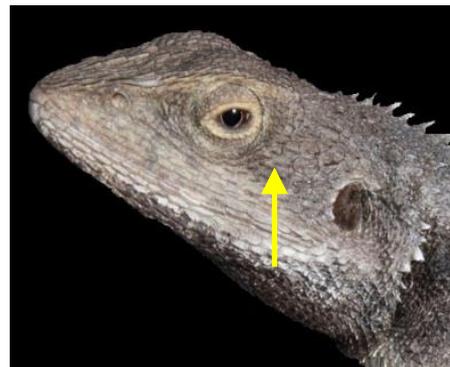
5a. *G. longirostris*, hatchling

6. a. A row of enlarged scales forms a semicircular ridge that runs under the eye and (in some species) back on to the side of the head; row weak, broken or reduced to scattered enlarged scales behind the eye in some species ..... [Ctenophorus](#) (part) (p. 14)
- b. No row of enlarged scales under the eye ..... 7



*Ctenophorus vadrappa*

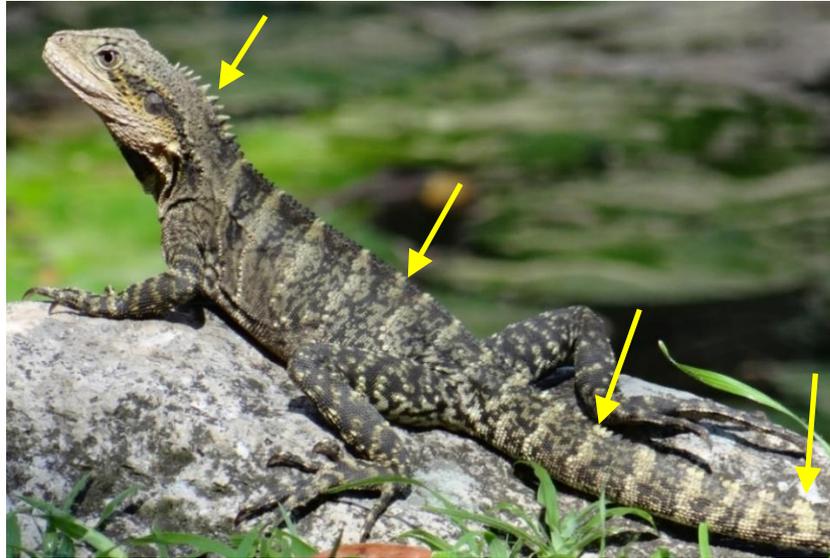
6a. A row of enlarged scales in an arc below and behind the eye



*Diporiphora nobbi*

6b. No row of enlarged scales in an arc below and behind the eye

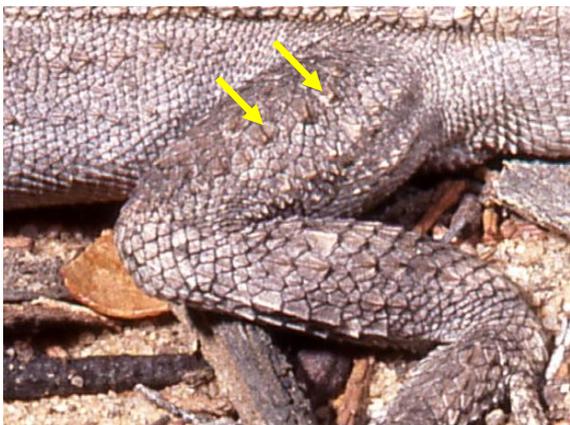
- 7. a. A strong vertebral crest of triangular scales continues the length of the tail which is laterally flattened . . . . . ***Intellagama lesueurii***  
Water Dragon  
(Introduced)
- b. Vertebral crest, if present, goes no further posteriorly than the basal third of the tail, which is round in cross-section . . . . . **8**



*Intellagama lesueurii*

**7a.** Vertebral crest runs the length of the body and tail

- 8. a. Thighs with small scales and, in two species, additional scattered enlarged pointed scales; lining of mouth and tongue yellow; male dorsal colour pattern never includes any pink or yellow markings . . . . . ***Amphibolurus***  
(p. 12)
- b. Thighs always with uniformly large scales; lining of mouth and tongue pink; breeding males with pink to red flush on the base of the tail and/or the flanks, and dorsolateral stripes are coloured creamy yellow to lemon yellow . . . . . ***Diporiphora***  
(p. 27)



*Amphibolurus norrisi*

**8a.** Thigh scales mostly small, usually with scattered enlarged pointed scales



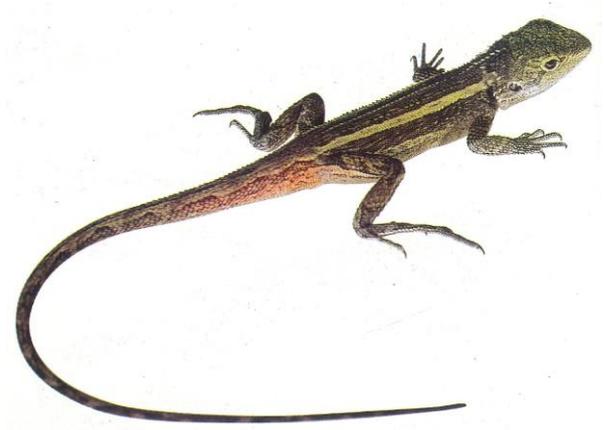
*Diporiphora nobbi*

**8b.** Thigh scales all rather large, similar



*Amphibolurus norrisi* (C. Whitehead)

**8a.** Bright yellow tongue and mouth lining



Male *Diporiphora nobbi* (Trevor Peters, SA Museum)

**8b.** Male with yellow dorsolateral stripes and pink on the tail

## Key to the South Australian species of *Amphibolurus*

1.
  - a. Scales on upper surface of thighs uniform, no scattered enlarged spiny scales ..... ***A. burnsi***  
Eastern Tree Dragon
  - b. Scales on upper surface of thighs with scattered enlarged spiny scales ..... **2**



*A. burnsi*

**1a.** Uniform thigh scales



*A. norrisi*

**1b.** Thighs with scattered spiny scales

2.
  - a. Dorsal colour pattern complex with light to dark brown sides and dorsal midline, heavily flecked with lighter and darker colouring, separated by a strong pattern of connected pale grey blotches or a more continuous broad wavy grey to off-white stripe running down each side of the back; no dark zone between snout & eye . . . ***A. muricatus***  
Jacky Lizard
  - b. Mostly uniform plain grey above with a weak series of blotches down each side of the back; a dark zone, sometimes blurry, runs from the snout to the eye. .... ***A. norrisi***  
Mallee Tree Dragon



*A. muricatus*

**2a.** Complex body pattern



*A. norrisi*

**2b.** Plain body pattern, very similar to that of female *Diporiphora nobbi*. Check thigh scales: with scattered enlarged spiny scales in *A. norrisi*; evenly scaled in *D. nobbi*.



*A. muricatus*

**2a.** No dark stripe from eye to snout



*A. norrisi*

**2b.** Weak dark stripe from eye to snout

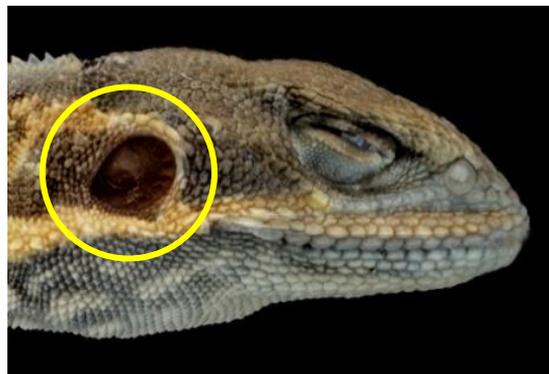
## Key to the South Australian species of *Ctenophorus*

1. a. No ear drum (tympanic membrane) ..... ***C. maculosus***  
Lake Eyre Dragon
- b. Ear drum visible ..... **2**



*C. maculosus*

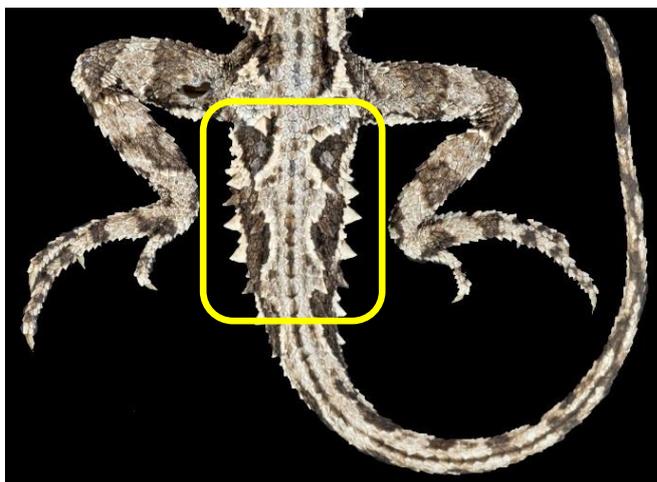
**1a.** No external ear drum



*C. modestus*

**1b.** Ear drum visible

2. a. Back with many very roughly keeled and spiny scales and a row of erect spinous tubercles on each side of the base of the tail . . . ***C. chapmani***  
Nullarbor Heath Dragon
- b. Most dorsal scales with at most a small median keel, and spiny scales confined to small areas around the ears or on the vertebral scale row ..... **3**



*C. chapmani*

**2a.** Body with numerous spiny scales and enlarged spiny scales on the base of the tail

- 3.
  - a. Prominent crest of toothed scales runs from nape, along vertebral line to well along the tail; head and shoulders with black wavy markings, tail with contrasting blackish bands . . . . . ***C. cristatus***  
Crested Dragon
  - b. Dorsal crest, if present, low and not continuing beyond base of tail; no dorsolateral series of spiny scales . . . . . **4**



*C. cristatus*

**3a.** Strong dorsal crest in adults; bold dark rings on the tail



*C. cristatus*, juvenile (Ted Johansen)

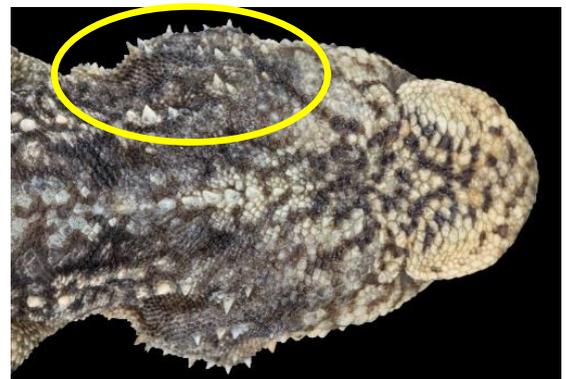
**3a.** Juveniles drab coloured and crest present but weak; note banded tail

- 4.
  - a. No clusters of small spines on side of neck or around ear; dorsal scales completely homogeneous, small, with no spinose or tubercular scales . . . . . **5**
  - b. Clusters or scattered small spinose scales on neck and/or around ear; dorsal scales may include scattered small tubercular or spinose scales . . . . . **11**



*C. ibiri*

**4a.** Area around ears free of spines



*C. reticulatus*

**4b.** Area around ears with spines

- 5. a. Dorsal pattern includes prominent whitish spots, narrowly edged in black; males with extensive black mask over the face and contrasting pale yellow lip stripe . . . . . ***C. isolepis***  
Central Military Dragon
- b. Dorsal pattern without dark-edged whitish spots; males without black face or contrasting yellow lip colouring\* . . . . . **6**



*C. isolepis*

**5a.** Pattern includes black-edged white spots



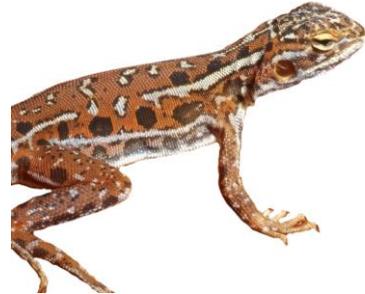
*C. tjakalpa*

**5b.** No black-edged white spots



*C. isolepis*

**5a.** Male with contrasting black face and shoulders



*C. isolepis*

**5a.** Female without black face and shoulders

**\*The species for couplets 6 to 10 are best identified from males; females are duller, with less contrasting versions of the male colour and pattern, and with weak or no black chest or throat patterns.**

- 6. a. Smoke-grey above with bright orange dorsolateral stripes made more prominent by extensive black lateral colouring; far southwest of SA . ***C. dualis***  
Bight Coast Sand Dragon
- b. Variably grey-brown to pale sandy to orange-brown above; dorsolateral stripe whitish to straw yellow; sides variably blackish to brown . . . . . **7**



Male *C. dualis*

**6a.** Orange dorsolateral stripe breaks up



Male *C. ibiri*

**6b.** Beige dorsolateral stripe continuous

- 7. a. Sides of males mostly black, broken by vertical series of white dots . . . . . 8
- b. Sides of males not continuously black, with black blotches or spots, intermixed with patches of the dorsal background colour . . . . . 9



Male *C. tuniluki*



Male *C. spinodomus*

- 7a. Black sides with vertical series of white dots
- 7b. Sides mottled in blackish and orange-brown

- 8. a. Eyre Peninsula; male throat marking a strong black chevron and black dots; black chest patch well-developed, extensive . . . . . ***C. ibiri***  
Eyre Peninsula Mallee Dragon
- b. South and east of the Murray River; male throat with many black dots and small spots; black chest patch reduced in contrast and size . . . . . ***C. tuniluki***  
Southern Mallee Dragon



*C. ibiri*

- 8a. Throat with strong black chevron and chest patch



*C. tuniluki*

- 8b. Throat with strong black speckling and smaller dark greyish chest patch

- 9. a. Mallee habitats between the Murray River, Mt Lofty Ranges and Barrier Highway; male throat faintly patterned with speckles, chest patch reduced to dark smudges; longest toe of hind foot stretches forward to about the snout . . . . . ***C. spinodomus***  
Eastern Mallee Dragon
- b. Open sand dune crests and slopes across central South Australia; male throat with weak chevron or almost plain, black chest patch narrow but strongly contrasting; longest toe of hind foot stretches beyond tip of the snout . . . . . 10



*C. spinodomus*

**9a.** Throat white with weak darker speckling



*C. kartiwarru*

**9b.** Throat almost plain

- 10.**
- a.** Distinct blackish lateral blotches overlain by prominent dorsolateral stripe (yellow in males); male chest patch often partly divided in the middle . . . . .
  - b.** Great Victoria Desert; usually with only irregular, smaller black latera blotches and spots bordered above by a narrow grey-white dorsolateral stripe; males of some eastern populations with complete chevron marking, but more western populations have unmarked throats . . . . .

***C. kartiwarru***  
Red-backed Sand Dragon

***C. tjakalpa***  
Ghost Sand Dragon



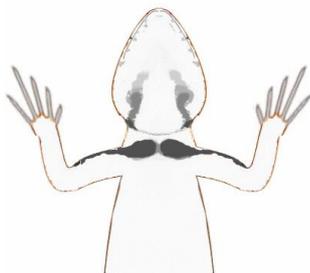
Male *C. kartiwarru* (P. Tremul)

**10a.** Strong yellow dorsolateral line crosses larger, regular blotches along sides



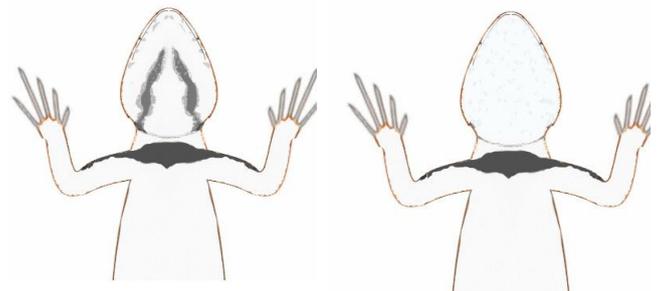
Male *C. tjakalpa*

**10b.** Weaker grey-white dorsolateral line lies mostly above smaller, irregular dark blotches along sides



Male *C. kartiwarru*

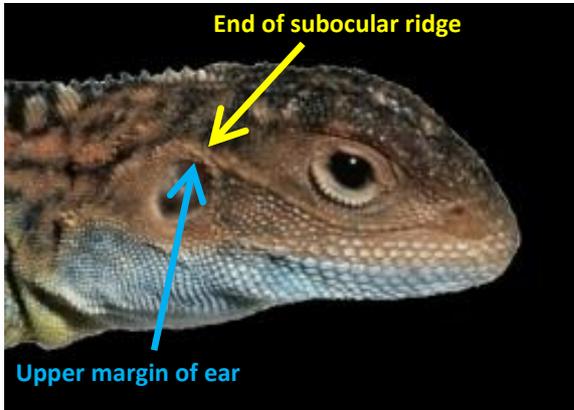
**10a.** Weak chevron on throat; narrow, sometimes divided, chest patch



Male *C. tjakalpa*

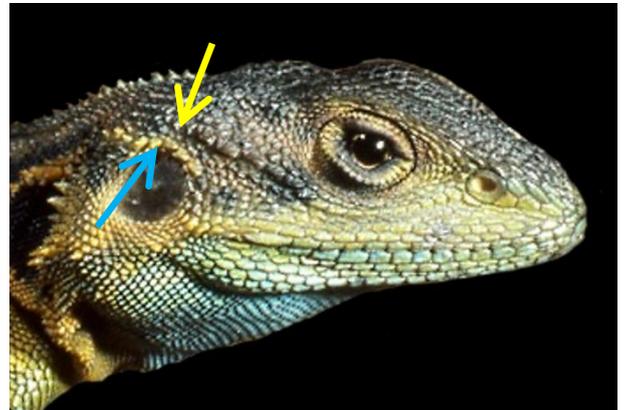
**10b.** Throat variable, from near complete chevron to plain; narrow but strong chest patch

- 11. a. Subocular ridge very well differentiated from adjacent scales and continuous from below eye to the upper margin of the ear . . . . . **12**
- b. Subocular ridge variable, weakly differentiated, discontinuous or, if continuous, does not form the upper margin of the ear . . . . . **13**



*C. pictus*

**11a.** Ridge continuous to the ear margin



*C. decresii*

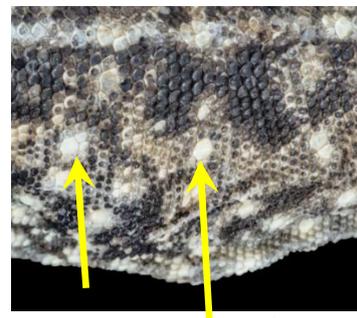
**11b.** Ridge not contacting ear

- 12. a. Dorsal scalation homogeneous, without scattered enlarged tubercular scales; sexually dichromatic, adult males with blue and orange and/or yellow markings . . . . . ***C. pictus***  
Painted Dragon
- b. Dorsal scalation heterogeneous, with enlarged obtuse tubercular scales scattered over the flanks; males without bright colour hues ***C. salinarum***  
Claypan Dragon



*C. pictus*

**12a.** Sides of body with uniform scales



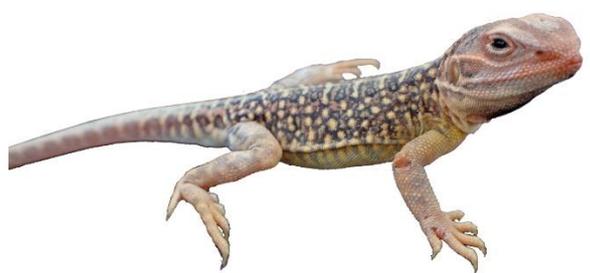
*C. salinarum*

**12b.** Sides of body with scattered enlarged pale scales



*C. pictus*

**12a.** Males with blue throat and other blue markings



*C. salinarum*

**12b.** Males without any blue colouring; throat with central black streak

- 13. a. Head relatively short and deep, with a blunt snout ..... 14
- b. Head relatively longer, and snout more pointed ..... 17



*C. nuchalis*



*C. fionni*

**13a.** Snout profile blunt

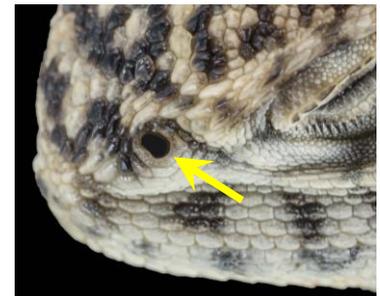
**13b.** Snout profile more tapering

- 14. a. Tail with darker dark rings, most obvious on the posterior half of the tail; nostrils on swollen snout ridges and directed upwards ... 15
- b. Tail with a dark lateral stripe or with a row of dark lateral blotches that run the complete length of the tail; nostrils below snout ridges and opening laterally or downwards ..... 16



*C. nuchalis*

**14a.** Dark rings around the rear half of the tail



*C. nuchalis*

**14a.** Nostrils open forwards and upwards



*C. gibba*

**14b.** Blotches all along sides of tail



*C. gibba*

**14b.** Nostrils open outwards and downwards

15. a. Females and males with a dorsal network pattern, no pale dorsolateral stripes; precloacal and femoral pores totalling 16–26, widely spaced along lines which curve forwards on each thigh; sandplains and sand dunes . . . . . ***C. nuchalis***  
Central Netted Dragon
- b. Females with irregular, pale dorsolateral stripes, males with a network pattern; precloacal and femoral pores totalling 30–45, closely arranged along a more or less straight line; clayey and stony terrain . . . . . ***C. reticulatus***  
Western Netted Dragon



*C. nuchalis*

**15a.** Female, network pattern without pale dorsolateral stripes



*C. reticulatus* (P. Tremul)

**15b.** Female with irregular pale dorsolateral stripes



*C. nuchalis*

**15a.** Male, network pattern



*C. reticulatus* (P. Tremul)

**15b.** Male, network pattern



*C. nuchalis*

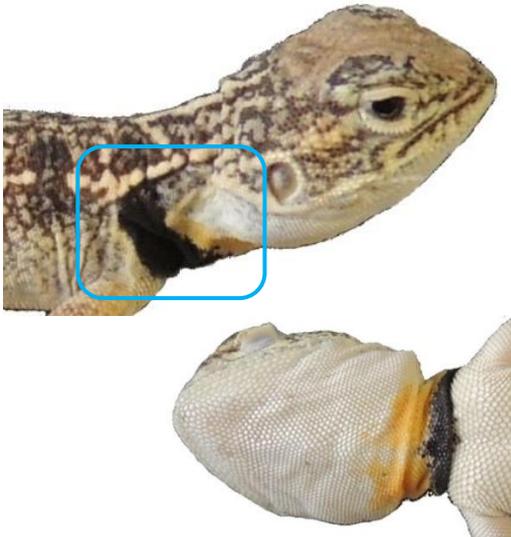
**15a.** Pores widely spaced along thighs



*C. reticulatus*

**15b.** Pores in continuous row

- 16. a. Black "collar" on each side of neck; throat white in both sexes; sand dune desert . . . . . ***C. clayi***  
Black-collared Dragon
- b. No black "collar"; sides of tail marked with a series of dark, blotches; males with a black throat patch and a black median "goatee" stripe below chin; gibber and clay plains . . . . . ***C. gibba***  
Gibber Dragon



*C. clayi*

16a. Males with yellow-edged black collar



*C. gibba*

16b. Males with black spot on throat and small black "goatee"

- 17. a. Mid-dorsal zone with a series of grey-white blotches, margined by an interconnected series of elongate dark blotches, and then a series of pale blotches, the pattern extending on to the back of the head; males with an elongate black throat patch . . . . . ***C. mckenziei***  
McKenzie's Dragon
- b. Back pattern not as above; male throat colouring not black . . . . . 18



*C. mckenziei*

17a. Complex back pattern; males with black throat stripe



*C. mckenziei*

- 18. a. Both sexes predominantly rusty to medium brown, males lack bright yellow, orange or blue colouring on the head, neck or throat; north-west ranges of South Australia . . . . . 19
- b. Females and juveniles camouflaged according to local rock colour but males with bright colours in patches on the neck, throat or flanks\* . . . . . 20

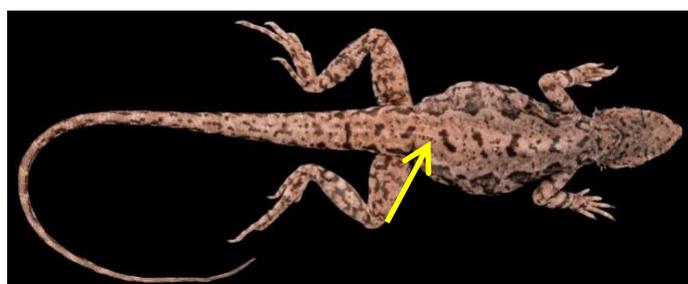
*\*Females and juveniles of all the remaining species overlap in colour pattern variation and can be difficult to identify. Geographic origin often the main criterion for identification.*

- 19. a. Head and body strongly flattened; males uniformly rusty brown to dull orange; females and juveniles with heavy mottling of blackish on a red-brown background that continues along the tail . . . . . ***C. rufescens***  
Rusty Dragon
- b. Head and body not obviously flattened; both sexes rusty brown to pale grey with a series of paired small black spots running down the back, pale grey-white rings run the length of the tail . . . . . ***C. slateri***  
Plain Rock Dragon



*C. rufescens*

**19a.** Male uniformly rusty



*C. rufescens*

**19a.** Juveniles and females heavily marked with black



*C. slateri\**

**19b.** Both sexes with paired black dots along the back

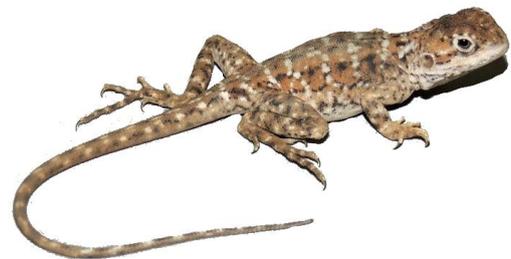
\*Photo shows a preserved specimen from NT. Species ID of SA populations currently requires confirmation as the only record is a field photograph.

- 20. a. Colour pattern on the back and sides consists of irregular light and dark barring (red and black in males, brown and black in females); males with bluish vertebral stripe, limbs and tail; northern Flinders Ranges and north-west outliers ..... ***C. vadrappa***  
Red-barred Dragon
- b. Colour pattern not as above ..... **21**



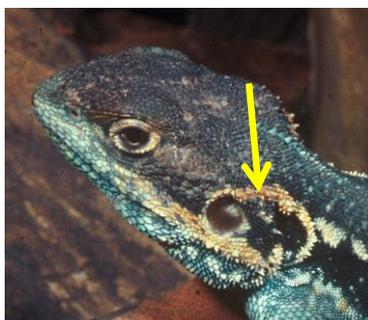
**20a.** *C. vadrappa* male (left) and female. (Shade of brown or grey in females and juveniles matches local rock colour)

- 21. a. Males uniform powder blue above with salmon lower flanks; females and juveniles with numerous pale spots on the body, becoming cross-rings on the tail; low stony hills and eroded creek lines in the Lake Eyre Basin. .... ***C. tjantjalka***  
Ochre Dragon
- b. Males not uniformly bluish; male colour varies markedly according to locality, but most have yellow or red patches that coincide with clusters of spines around the ears and the back of the head ..... **22**

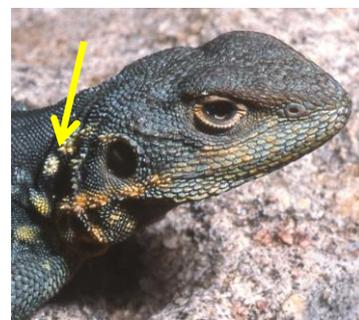


**21a.** *C. tjantjalka* male (T. Peters, SA Museum)

**21a.** *C. tjantjalka* female



*C. modestus*



*C. fionni*

**21b.** Males with orange to yellow patches around the ears

22. a. Rocky areas of Eyre Peninsula and adjacent islands, north to the Arcoona Tableland; males exhibit distinct geographic colour variation; northern males may have red instead of white dorsal spotting but lack bluish colouring (cf *C. vadrappa*) . . . . . ***C. fionni***  
 Eyre Peninsula Dragon
- b. Rocky ranges and hills east of Spencer Gulf . . . . . **23**



22a. *C. fionni*, female, Gawler Ranges. Shade of brown or grey locally variable



22a. *C. fionni*, male, Gawler Ranges. Typical of the main Eyre Peninsula populations



22a. *C. fionni*, male from Winter Hill, Port Lincoln



22a. *C. fionni*, male of weakly marked form from the Eyre Peninsula southern coast

23. a. Male throat colour blue; orange markings around ears and flanks broad, smudgy; Mt Lofty Ranges and Kangaroo Island . . . . . ***C. decresii***  
 Tawny Dragon
- b. Male throat colour pale greyish, yellow or orange-red, never blue; orange or yellow markings around ears and flanks narrow, sharply defined; North Mt Lofty ranges through the Flinders Ranges and Olary Spur . . . . . ***C. modestus***  
 Swift Rock Dragon



**23a.** *C. decresii* male



**23b.** *C. modestus* male



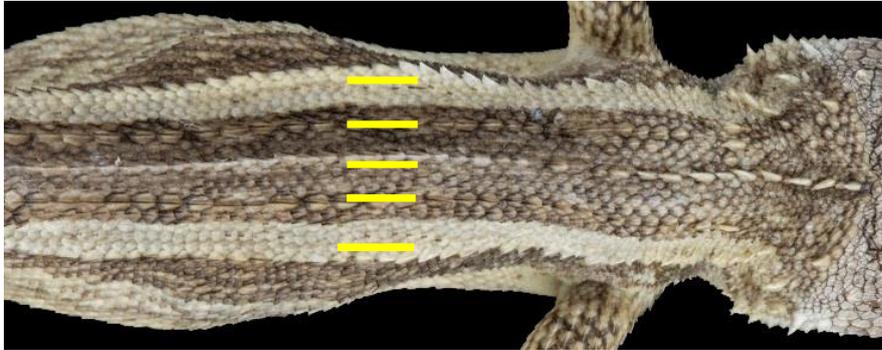
**23a.** *C. decresii* female. Shade of brown or grey matches local rock colour



**23b.** *C. modestus* female. Shade of brown or grey matches local rock colour (G. Trethewie)

## Key to the South Australian species of *Diporiphora*

1. a. Back with 3 or 5 distinct longitudinal lines of pointed scales including one starting on the nape of the neck . . . . . ***D. nobbi***  
Nobbi Dragon
- b. Back without longitudinal lines of strongly keeled scales . . . . . **2**



*D. nobbi*

**1a.** Five lines of dorsal crests present



**1a.** Male *D. nobbi*



**1a.** Female *Diporiphora nobbi*, showing strong similarity to *Amphibolurus norrisi*.  
Check thigh scales: evenly scaled in *D. nobbi*; with scattered enlarged spiny scales in *A. norrisi*.



*D. linga*

**1b.** Dorsal crests absent

- 2. a. Underside of throat and belly with longitudinal grey to yellowish stripes. . . . . 3
- b. Underside of throat and belly uniform pure white. . . . . 4



*D. winneckei*

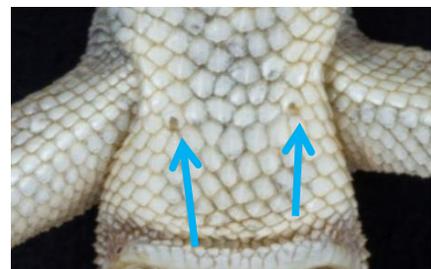
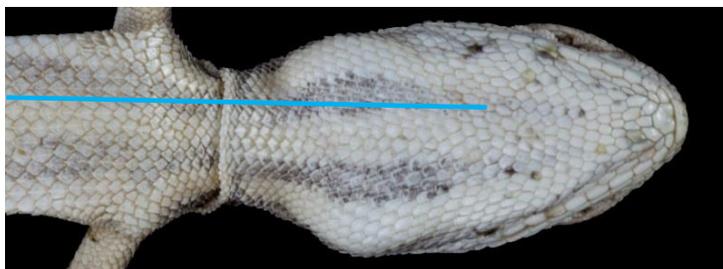
**2a.** Underside striped



*D. reginae*

**2b.** Underside white

- 3. a. Throat with 3 wide grey or yellowish longitudinal stripes, the median one continuing onto the chest and belly where it divides into two (**fig. 2a, above**); males without precloacal pores; Lake Eyre Basin and eastern inland . . . . . ***D. winneckei***  
Canegrass Dragon
- b. Throat with 2 narrow grey or yellowish longitudinal stripes but no median stripe, the two lines converging under the neck then separating as a pair of ventral stripes; males with two precloacal pores; northwest ranges . . . . . ***D. paraconvergens***  
Grey-striped Desert Dragon



*D. paraconvergens*

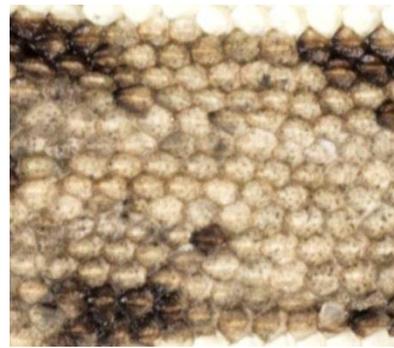
**3b.** Two throat stripes continuous with two belly stripes; a pair of precloacal pores

- 4. a. Dorsal scales strongly keeled, the keel extending beyond the apex of the scale to form a small spine; no pale temporal stripe; males with vivid red colouring concentrated on the base of the tail . . . . . ***D. reginae***  
Plain-backed Two-lined Dragon
- b. Dorsal scales weakly keeled; not spinose; a short pale temporal stripe from the eye to the ear; males with red to pink colouring mainly on the sides of the body . . . . . ***D. linga***  
Linga Dragon



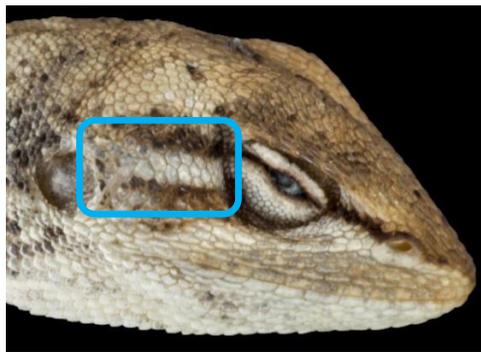
*D. reginae*

**4a.** Dorsal scales keeled



*D. linga*

**4b.** Dorsal scales smooth



*D. linga*

**4b.** Pale stripe behind eye



*D. reginae* (David Hirst)

**4a.** Male with vivid red at base of tail



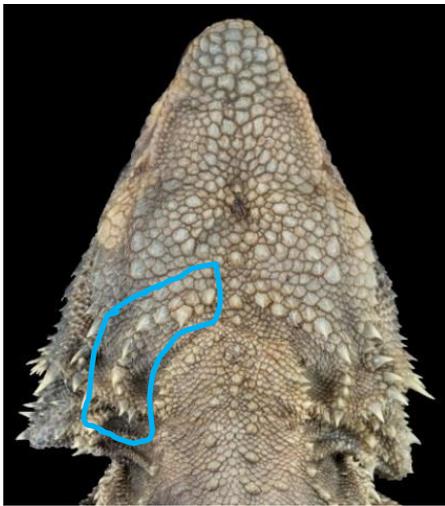
*D. linga* (Coralie Peddie)

**4b.** Male with pink wash on sides

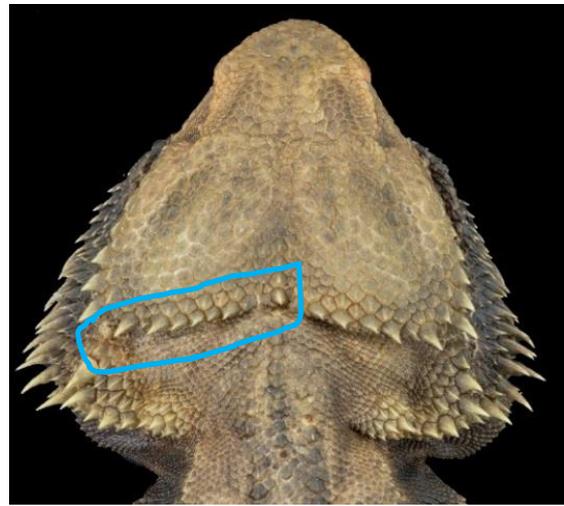
## Key to the South Australian species of *Pogona*

**Juveniles.** *Bearded dragon hatchlings are very small compared to the adults and are often confused with other, smaller dragons that have spiny scales (especially Tympanocryptis). Check for obvious ear drums, and the same arrangement of spiny scales as adult Pogona.*

1. a. Transverse row of spines on back of head curving posteriorly on each side and paralleling row of spines above each ear; basal section of tail with several cross-rows of enlarged spinous scales . . . . . **2**
- b. Transverse row of spines or ridge across back of head more or less straight; basal section of tail without cross-rows of enlarged spinous scales . . . . . **3**



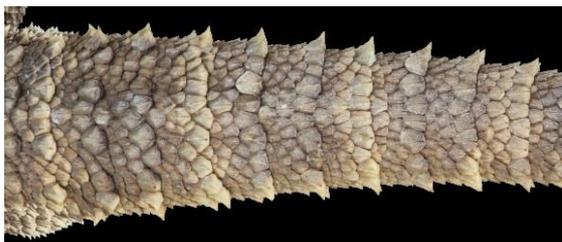
*P. barbata*



*P. vitticeps*

**1a.** Row of spines on back of head curves posteriorly

**1b.** Row of spines on back of head runs laterally



*P. barbata*



*P. vitticeps*

**1a.** Base of tail with rows of enlarged spines

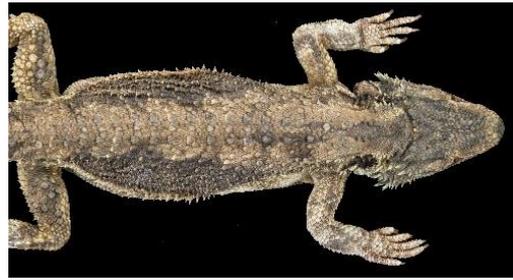
**1b.** No rows of enlarged spines

2. a. Back with whitish cross bars; throat strongly patterned with longitudinal grey and white wavy stripes . . . . . ***P. nullarbor***  
Nullarbor Bearded Dragon
- b. Back without whitish cross bars; throat plain, or with only a dark transverse band . . . . . ***P. barbata***  
Eastern Bearded Dragon



*P. nullarbor*

2a. Pale bands



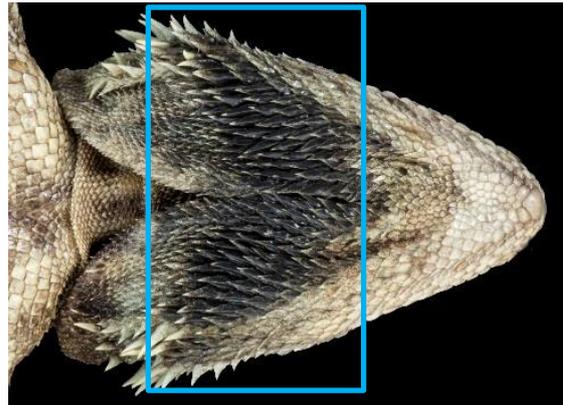
*P. barbata*

2b. No bands



*P. nullarbor*

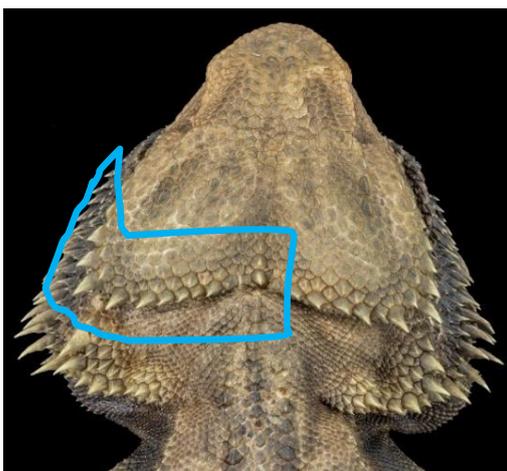
2a. Dark stripes



*P. barbata*

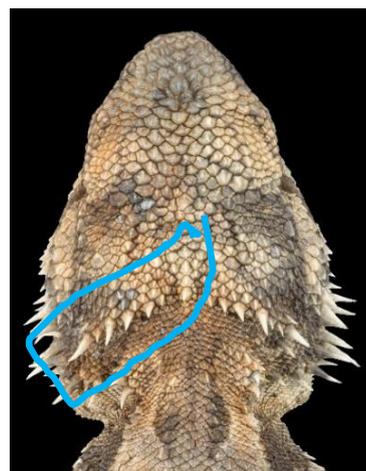
2b. No stripes; dark "beard" spines

3. a. Spines on back of head stout, closely-set, broad-based, forming a continuous serrated ridge that continues forward on the side of the head; head length about equal to its width . . . . . ***P. vitticeps***  
Central Bearded Dragon
- b. Spines on back of head relatively slender, irregularly spaced and not continuing on to the sides of the head; head length about 1.5 times its width . . . . . ***P. minor***  
Western Bearded Dragon



*P. vitticeps*

3a. Spines on back of head stout; row continues forward on side of head



*P. minor*

3b. Spines on back of head slender; row not continuous onto side of head

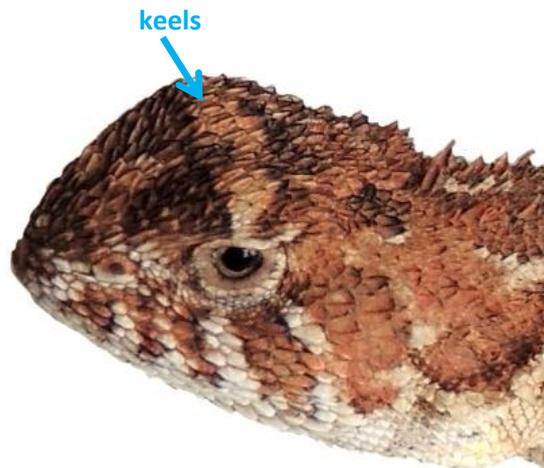
## Key to the South Australian species of *Tympanocryptis*

1. a. Dorsal head scales smooth or only weakly keeled; smaller body scales are also mostly smooth, only the enlarged dorsal scales bearing keels or spines . . . . . 2
- b. Dorsal head scales rough, distinctly keeled; smaller dorsal scales, smooth to strongly keeled . . . . . 3



*T. intima*

1a. Head scales without keels



*T. toleyi*

1b. Head scales with keels

2. a. Back with three dark cross-bands, strongly contrasting with very pale background colour . . . . . *T. fictilis*  
Harlequin Earless Dragon
- b. Back pattern weak, and often completely plain, without strong cross-bands . . . . . *T. intima*  
Smooth-snouted Earless Dragon



*T. fictilis*

2a. Strongly contrasting banded pattern on back (Aaron Fenner)



*T. intima*

2b. Back pattern weak or absent

- 3. a. Top of head lacks a pale bar running across the eye bulges; four pores (two precloacal [P] and two femoral [F]) . . . . . ***T. tetraporophora***  
Eyrean Earless Dragon
- b. Top of head has a pale bar running across the eye bulges; two pores (two precloacal [P] only) . . . . . **4**



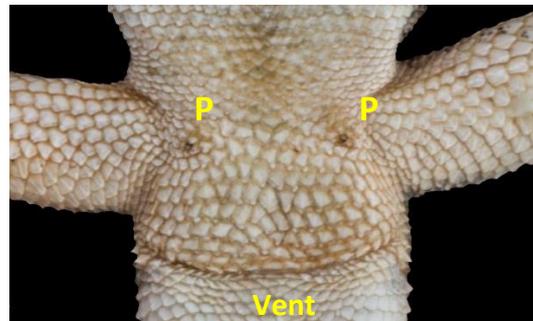
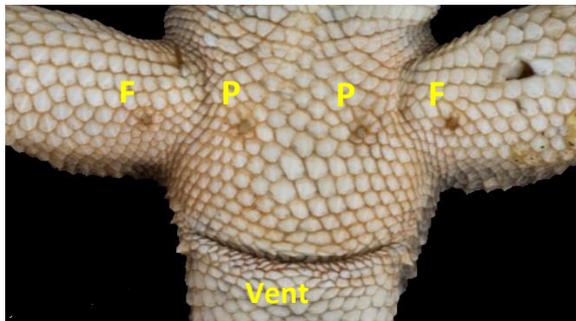
*T. tetraporophora*

*T. centralis*

*T. toleyi*

**3a.** No pale bar across the eyes, but sometimes spots on the snout

**3b.** A weak to strong pale bar across the eyes



*T. tetraporophora*

*T. centralis*

**3a.** Femoral pores as well as precloacal pores

**3b.** Precloacal pores only

- 4. a. Dorsolateral light lines and vertebral light lines absent or very short . . . . . ***T. toleyi*** (female)  
Gawler Earless Dragon
- b. Vertebral line present and usually continuous; dorsolateral lines present at least where they cross the dark cross-bands. **5**



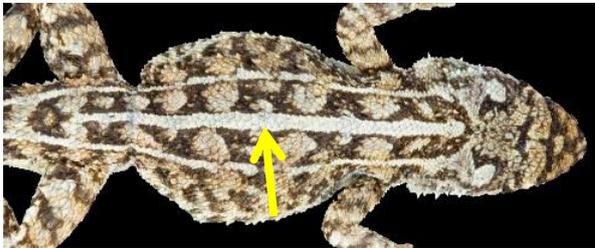
*T. toleyi* (female)

*T. petersi*

**4a.** No light vertebral line; dorsolateral lines reduced to pale dots or dashes

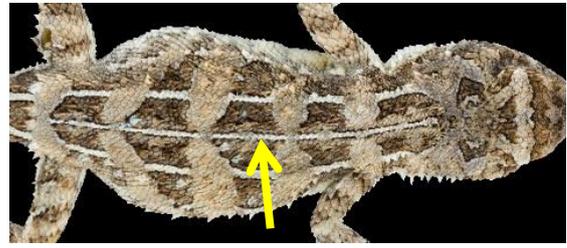
**4b.** Light vertebral line and dorsolateral lines present

- 5. a. Light grey vertebral line much wider than white dorsolateral lines; usually an elaborate pattern of black flecks and lines on belly, chest and throat; Nullarbor Plain ..... ***T. houstoni***  
Nullarbor Earless Dragon
- b. Whitish vertebral line (if present) no wider than dorsolateral lines; underside usually lacks dark markings ..... **6**



*T. houstoni*

**5a.** Vertebral stripe markedly wider



*T. petersi*

**5b.** Vertebral stripe narrow



*T. houstoni*

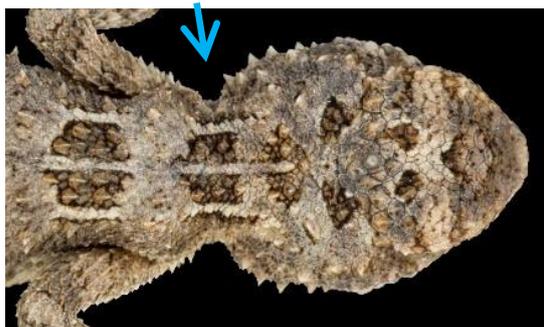
**5a.** Underside with black spots and stripes



*T. petersi*

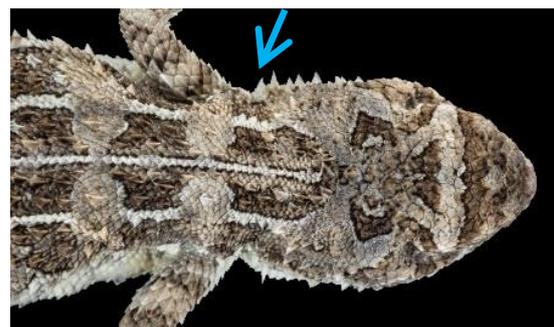
**5b.** Underside almost unmarked white

- 6. a. Neck sharply distinct (narrowed) from rear of head and jaw; stony hills of northwestern SA ..... ***T. centralis***  
Centralian Earless Dragon
- b. Neck indistinct, as broad as head; eastern two-thirds of SA. . **7**



*T. centralis*

**6a.** Neck distinct



*T. petersi*

**6b.** Neck obscured by skin ridges

- 7. a. Light dorsolateral lines expand to fill the spaces between the dark dorsal blotches, forming hourglass-shaped pale patches . . . . . ***T. toleyi* (male)**  
Gawler Earless Dragon
- b. Light dorsolateral lines narrow, paler than the pale spaces between the dark dorsal patches or not visible on the pale spaces (see Figs 5a and 5b) . . . . . **8**



*T. toleyi* (male)

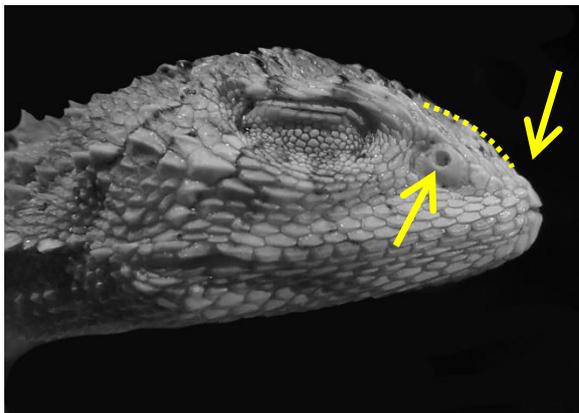


*T. petersi*

**7a.** Light dorsolateral lines fill the spaces between the dorsal blotches

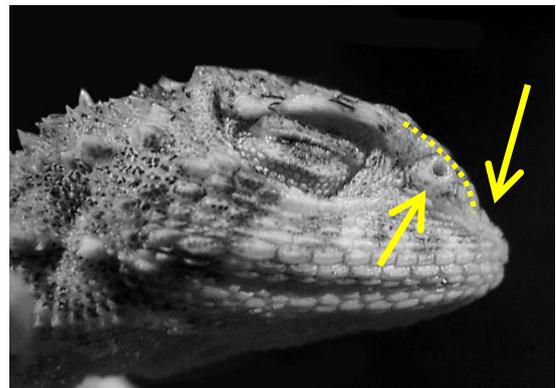
**7b.** Light dorsolateral lines separate from the pale cross-bands

- 8. a. Snout tapers uniformly to a point when viewed in profile; nasal scale placed below the upper edges of the snout . . . . . ***T. petersi***  
Lined Earless Dragon
- b. Snout blunt, the tip of the snout and lips protruding slightly in profile; nasal scale overlaps the snout ridge . . . . . ***T. argillosa***  
Claypan Earless Dragon



*T. petersi*

**8a.** Snout tapering in profile; nasal scale below the snout ridge



*T. argillosa*

**8b.** Snout blunt, lips protrude forwards; nasal scale sits on the snout ridge