



STUDENT FACT SHEET

WOOMERA SLIDER

Lerista elongata

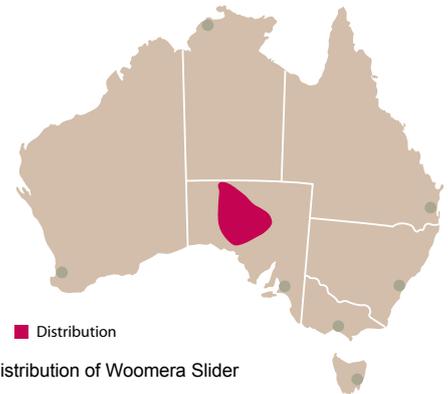
There are about 17 species of sliders which occur in South Australia. Sliders have long thin bodies, relatively weak small legs and most have less than five digits per limb. A few species in northern Australia are totally limbless. Many have relatively small eyes. Not much is known about what the Woomera Slider eats, however most sliders prey on insects, small spiders and ant larvae and it is likely that the Woomera Slider has a similar diet.

IDENTIFICATION

The Woomera Slider has mostly been found by raking or disturbing loose soil under leaf litter, fallen wood and large, flat rocks. It is reddish brown above, and has a paler dark-flecked tail and a whitish belly. The upper third of the side of the neck and body have a distinct sharp edged dark stripe. All four limbs have three digits and its small lower eyelid is moveable. The head and body length reaches up to 6.3 cm, with a tail length of up to 7.0cm and a weight of approximately 3 grams.

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT

Woomera Sliders have been recorded from a small number of widespread locations, often along watercourses on deep cracking clay plains with low open shrubland. Most of the sites receive significant water run-on from nearby low hills, with plenty of decomposing plant fragments and shallow leaf litter.

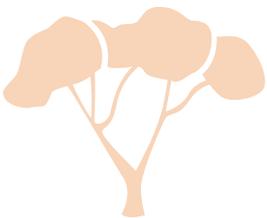


POTENTIAL THREATS TO THE WOOMERA SLIDER

Heavier stock densities at drainage lines and run-on areas are likely to disturb the leaf litter and soil profile enough to make these sites potentially uninhabitable by this skink.



Australian Government



FOCUS QUESTION

Make a picture or collage to show in detail the habitat of the Woomera Slider.

Woomera Slider. Photographs by John Read.





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BLACK-STRIPED FLOODPLAINS SKINK

Egernia slateri virgata

The Black-striped Floodplains skink is known from only a handful of specimens collected from somewhere near Oodnadatta in the late 1800's and early 1900's.

DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION

Only seven specimens of the Black-striped Floodplains Skink have been collected, all before 1914.

Observation of the closely related form in the Northern Territory may help us learn about the Black-striped Floodplains Skink in South Australia. The Northern Territory subspecies is active on warm mornings or in the late afternoon and warm evenings. It lives in a complex burrow with a number of small entrances and one main entrance, usually dug into steep sloping soil of a bank at the base of shrubs.

Museum specimens of the Black-striped Floodplains Skink is distinctively marked with a prominent blackish stripe along the middle of the back and two similar narrower parallel stripes which may be broken into two series of dashes. The sides are distinctly pale and dark blotched. The belly is pinkish-white while the darker throat has black speckling. The Black-striped Floodplains Skink is a relatively large

skink reaching a total length of about 23cm and a weight of 31g.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION

Wantapella Well on Granite Downs Station is the only precisely recorded location for the Black-striped Floodplains skink. Here, the surface soil is light and sandy with some areas of clay. Prickly Wattle and Dead Finish cover the surrounding dune areas while Nitre Goosefoot Lignum, Coolibah and River Red Gum with forbs and annual grasses dominate the vegetation.

POTENTIAL THREATS TO BLACK-STRIPED FLOODPLAINS SKINKS

In South Australia and nationally the Black-striped Floodplains Skink is listed as Endangered.

This skink is possibly threatened by the invasion of Buffel Grass (habitat change), changed fire regimes, disturbance from grazing stock, and predation by feral Cats, Foxes and Sand Goannas which have probably increased in abundance following much-reduced Aboriginal hunting.

FOCUS QUESTION

Why are there only photos of dead lizards?

Black-striped Floodplains Skink undersides shown on 2 mm grid.
Photograph by Harald Ehmann.



Black-striped Floodplains Skink upperside shown on 2 mm grid.
Photograph by Harald Ehmann.



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