



# WESTERN BLUE-TONGUE SKINK

## Description

Western Blue-tongue Skinks are smooth-scaled and have a broad, triangular shaped head. Wide, dark-coloured bands run across the skink's body and tail. They also have a fleshy blue tongue, which gives them their name.

## Diet

Blue-tongue Skinks are **omnivores** and feed on invertebrates, snails and slugs, flowers and fruit.

## In the wild

Adult females give birth to 4–10 (usually 5) young in late summer. Western Blue-tongue Skinks are **ovoviviparous**, which means the offspring develop in a jelly-like sack inside the mother's body before they are born.

When threatened, a Blue-tongue Skink will flatten its body, hiss and open its mouth to display the blue tongue to scare the predator away. Skinks are often eaten by central Australian Aborigines and their other predators include snakes, monitors and **raptors** (birds of prey).

## Threats

Land clearing has resulted in habitat loss for this lizard. They are also poached and sold on the illegal pet trade.

## At Perth Zoo

The mixed exhibit inside the **Alinta Reptile Encounter** is home to a number of skinks and lizards.

## Scientific Name

*Tiliqua occipitalis*

## Conservation Status

Extinct

Extinct in the Wild

Critically Endangered

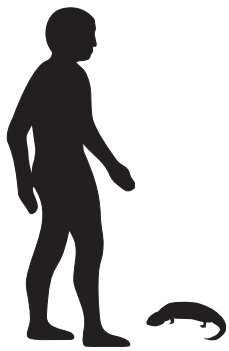
Endangered

Vulnerable

Near-Threatened

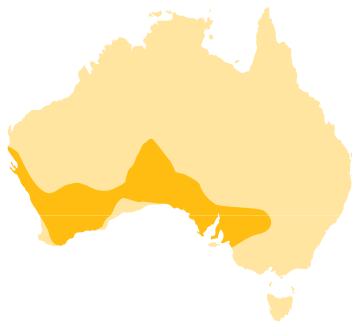
Least Concern

Data Deficient



**Body Length:** 27 cm

**Number of young:** 4–10



Distribution ■

**Distribution:** Southern Australia

**Habitat:** Coastal areas

