



REPTILE

*Tympanocryptis lineata ssp. lineata*

Five-lined Earless Dragon

AUS	SA	AMLR	Endemism	Residency
-	-	E	-	Resident



Photo: © Peter Canty

#### Conservation Significance

The AMLR distribution is part of a very limited extant distribution in adjacent regions within SA. Within the AMLR the species' relative area of occupancy is classified as 'Extremely Restricted'. Relative to all AMLR extant species, the species' taxonomic uniqueness is classified as 'High'.<sup>3</sup>

Endangered in the Adelaide Metropolitan Region.<sup>4</sup>

#### Description

Slender small lizard (snout-vent length 50 mm), pale grey or fawn to reddish-brown above, usually with a broad, pale vertebral stripe ending on the rump. Has two narrower pale grey or white stripes on each side, interrupted by dark bars and usually a narrow pale bar between the eyes. Whitish below. Neck narrower than the head.<sup>2</sup>

#### Distribution and Population

Distributed in Australia from eastern WA through the interior of all mainland states to the western slopes of NSW and southern VIC. The subspecies *lineata* occurs in the south-eastern part of the range.<sup>2</sup>

The single record in the western AMLR at Moana Sands CP from 1993 is probably legitimate. There has not been any follow-up surveys. The coastal remnants that front Adelaide's suburbs urgently require inventory survey work. May also occur north and north-west of Gawler and near Strathalbyn (M.Hutchinson *pers. comm.*).

Observed in the early 1960's along roadsides south of the Virginia/Two Wells area (D. Armstrong *pers. comm.*). Historically known from grassland areas on both sides of and adjacent to the MLR. Past distribution possibly extended from the Adelaide Plains into similar habitat within the ranges, but most remnants of this grassland habitat are now severely degraded. Unlikely that the species now occurs there.<sup>1</sup>

Post-1983 AMLR filtered records on the coast south of metropolitan Adelaide, and north-west of Monarto.<sup>3</sup>

Pre-1983 AMLR filtered records restricted to suburban Adelaide, Port Noarlunga, the Adelaide Hills near Montacute and Piccadilly, and east of Two Wells.<sup>3</sup>

#### Habitat

Nationally, it is found in a variety of terrestrial habitats from desert sandhills and spinifex through gibber and black-soil plains to open woodland and grasslands. Frequently found living in earth cracks, grasses and ground litter.<sup>2,4</sup>

In SA occurs in native grassland and open areas, including livestock paddocks. Sustainable grazing may be beneficial for this species as it promotes open habitats, however it is sensitive to environmental change (M. Hutchinson *pers. comm.*).

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation groups are Grassland and Grassy Woodland.<sup>3</sup>

#### Biology and Ecology

Usually found living in earth cracks, grasses or ground litter.<sup>2</sup>

#### Aboriginal Significance

Post-1983 records indicate the AMLR distribution occurs in Ngarrindjeri and Kaurna Nations.<sup>3</sup>

#### Threats

Likely threats to the species include:

- loss of habitat, especially open grassy areas
- predation by cats and foxes
- habitat disturbance or degradation
- lack of fire and fire management activities to create open, grassy habitats
- weed invasion, especially woody or shrub species
- poisoning by pesticides, especially when present in farming country (M. Hutchinson *pers. comm.*).

Additional current direct threats have been identified

#### Further information:

Biodiversity Conservation Unit, Adelaide Region  
Phone: (61 8) 8336 0901 Fax: (61 8) 8336 0999  
<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/>

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Prepared as part of the Regional Recovery Plan for Threatened Species and Ecological Communities of Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges, South Australia 2009 - 2014





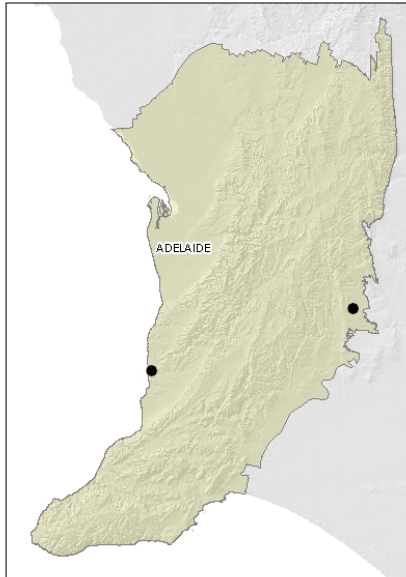
## ADELAIDE AND MOUNT LOFTY RANGES SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Threatened Species Profile

Department  
for Environment  
and Heritage

and rated for this species. Refer to the main plan accompanying these profiles.

### Regional Distribution



Map based on filtered post-1983 records.<sup>3</sup> Note, this map does not necessarily represent the actual species' distribution within the AMLR.

### References

Note: In some cases original reference sources are not included in this list, however they can be obtained from the reference from which the information has been sourced (the reference cited in superscript).

**1** Armstrong, D. M., Croft, S. N. and Foulkes, J. N. (2003). *A Biological Survey of the Southern Mount Lofty Ranges, South Australia, 2000-2001*. Department for Environment and Heritage, South Australia.

**2** Cogger, H. G. (2000). *Reptiles and Amphibians of Australia (Sixth Edition)*. Reed New Holland.

**3** Department for Environment and Heritage (2007). *Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Regional Recovery Pilot Project Database*. Unpublished data extracted and edited from BDBSA, SA Herbarium (July 2007) and other sources.

**4** Turner, M. S. (2001). *Conserving Adelaide's Biodiversity: Resources*. Urban Forest Biodiversity Program, Adelaide.

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