



REPTILE

Delma inornata

Olive Snake-lizard

| AUS | SA | AMLR | Endemism | Residency |
|-----|----|------|----------|-----------|
| - | - | V | - | Resident |



Photo: © Peter Robertson

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'.³

Description

Legless lizard, deep brown on the back and often a yellow throat. Snout vent length of up to 125 mm and tail is longer than the head and body (up to two-thirds of their total body length).² Looks similar to a snake but has some distinguishing features, such as external ear holes, vestigial hind limb flaps and a broad, rounded tongue. Makes a squeaking noise when disturbed or handled (Annable 1983).

Distribution and Population

Widely distributed throughout south-eastern Australia, west of the Great Dividing Range between south-eastern QLD and south-eastern SA, with isolated records from central and northern QLD (Shea 1987).^{2,4}

The AMLR sub-populations appear to be isolated as the only other records for SA are to the south-east of Bordertown at the western edge of its main distribution in VIC and NSW.¹

Post-1983 AMLR filtered records confined to the eastern portion of the region in an arc approximately 15 km in radius on the eastern side of Strathalbyn.³ May occur in suitable habitat elsewhere in the region, for example near Wistow, Milang and Port Elliot (M. Hutchinson *pers. comm.*).

Two pre-1983 AMLR filtered records, further south, close to Scott CP and south-west of Finniss.³

Habitat

Found in a wide variety of habitats, from the wetter forests of the ranges and slopes to the drier plains, woodlands and mallee communities in the western part of its range.⁴ Often seen feeding in porcupine grass or other grass tussocks, sheltering under logs and other surface debris.²

Also occurs in farming and grazing lands (Annable 1995a; Sonnemann 1974). Found sheltering under metal or wooden debris and rocks (Champion 1992; Shea 1991; Sonnemann 1974).⁴

In the AMLR, associated with open grassy remnants without a shrub layer with leaf litter protection on the ground. Requires logs and surface debris for shelter and grassy feeding areas. Does not appear to be disadvantaged by moderate habitat disturbance.⁴

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation groups are Grassland and Grassy Woodland.³

Biology and Ecology

Mostly active at dusk and dawn and during the day in summer (Sonnemann 1974, Stephenson 1995).⁴ Feeds on a variety of invertebrates, mostly arthropods, such as cockroaches, grasshoppers, lepidopteran adults and spiders (Nunan 1995; Patchell and Shine 1986a).⁴

In captivity, agonistic behaviour is common among adults. Captive juveniles will attack small skinks (Sonnemann 1974).⁴

Pregnant females have been found in early summer (January) (Patchell and Shine 1986a; Valentic 1995). The female lays two eggs (Annable 1995a).⁴

In winter, the animals can shelter as deep as 300 mm beneath the surface (Sonnemann 1974).⁴

Aboriginal Significance

Post-1983 records indicate the entire AMLR distribution occurs in Ngarrindjeri Nation.³

Threats

Likely threats include:

- loss of habitat, especially open grassy areas and rocky areas used for shelter
- predation by cats and foxes
- habitat disturbance or degradation, including

Further information:

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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

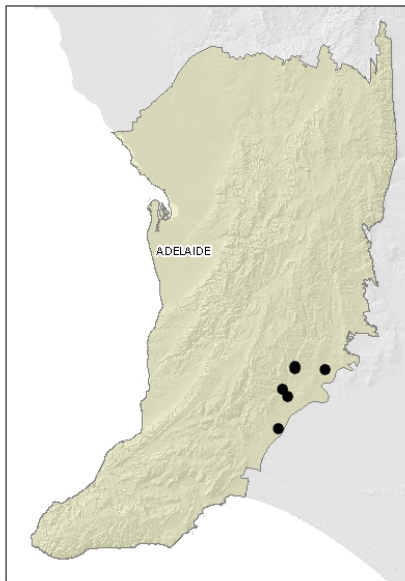
Department
for Environment
and Heritage

- rock removal
- lack of fire and fire management activities to create open, grassy habitats
- weed invasion, especially woody or shrub species
- poisoning by pesticides, especially when it is present in farming country (M. Hutchinson *pers. comm.*).

Available from
<http://www.amonline.net.au/herpetology/research/#encyclopedia>.

Additional current direct threats have been identified and rated for this species. Refer to the main plan accompanying these profiles.

Regional Distribution



Map based on filtered post-1983 records.³ 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 Greer, A. E. (2006). *Encyclopedia of Australian Reptiles*. Australian Museum Online, Version date: 7 August 2006.

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