

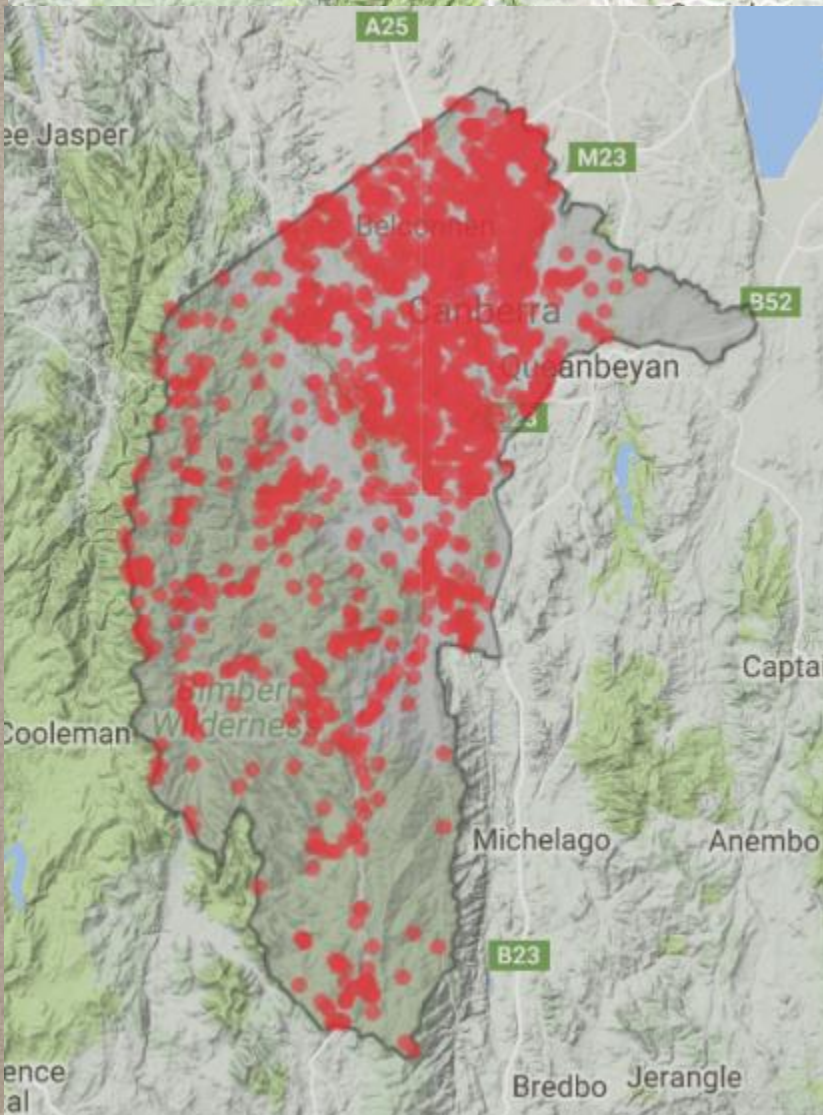
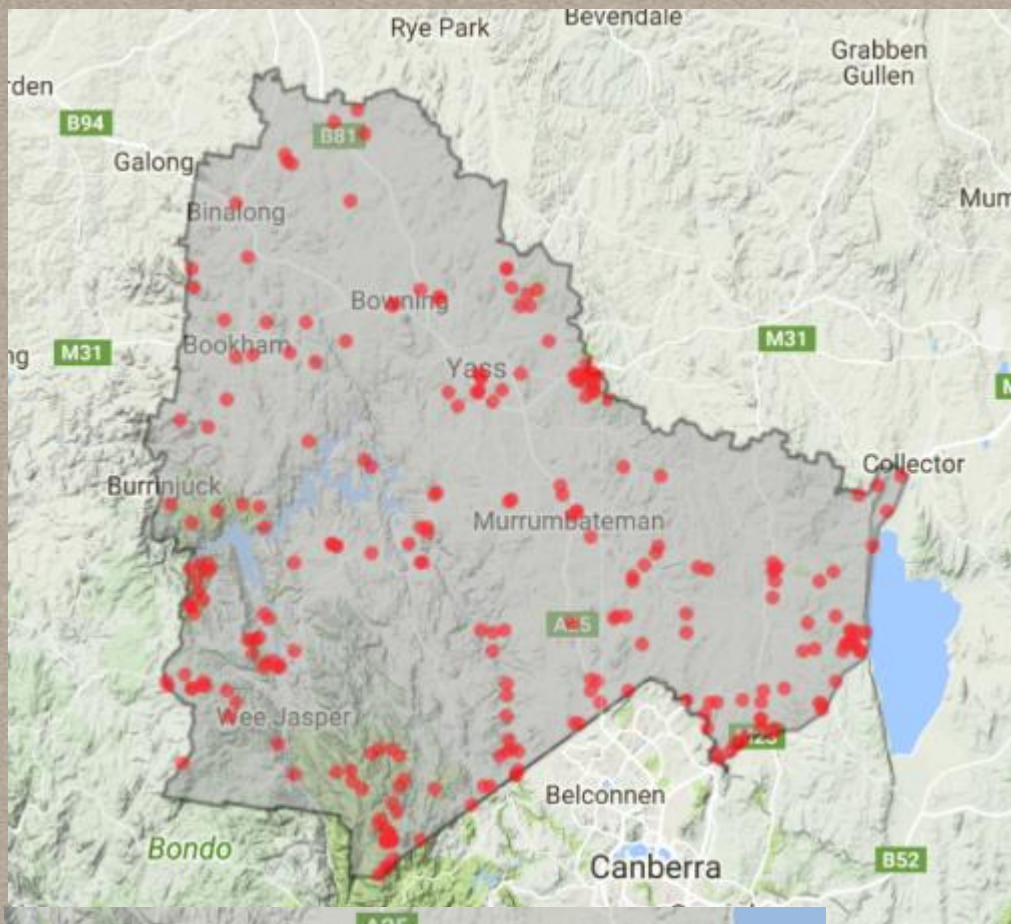


# Australian Capital Territory & Yass Valley Reptiles



*Geoff Robertson*  
*4 June 2017*





***Turtle*** (1-2 species)

***Lizard***

***Gecko*** (2)

***Legless lizard*** (4-5)

***Dragon*** (6)

***Gonna*** (2)

***Skink*** (32-35)

*Egernia group - chunky* (9)

*Eugongylus group - striped* (9-10)

*Sphenomorphus group - red* (14)

***Snakes***

***Blind*** (1)

***Python*** (1?)

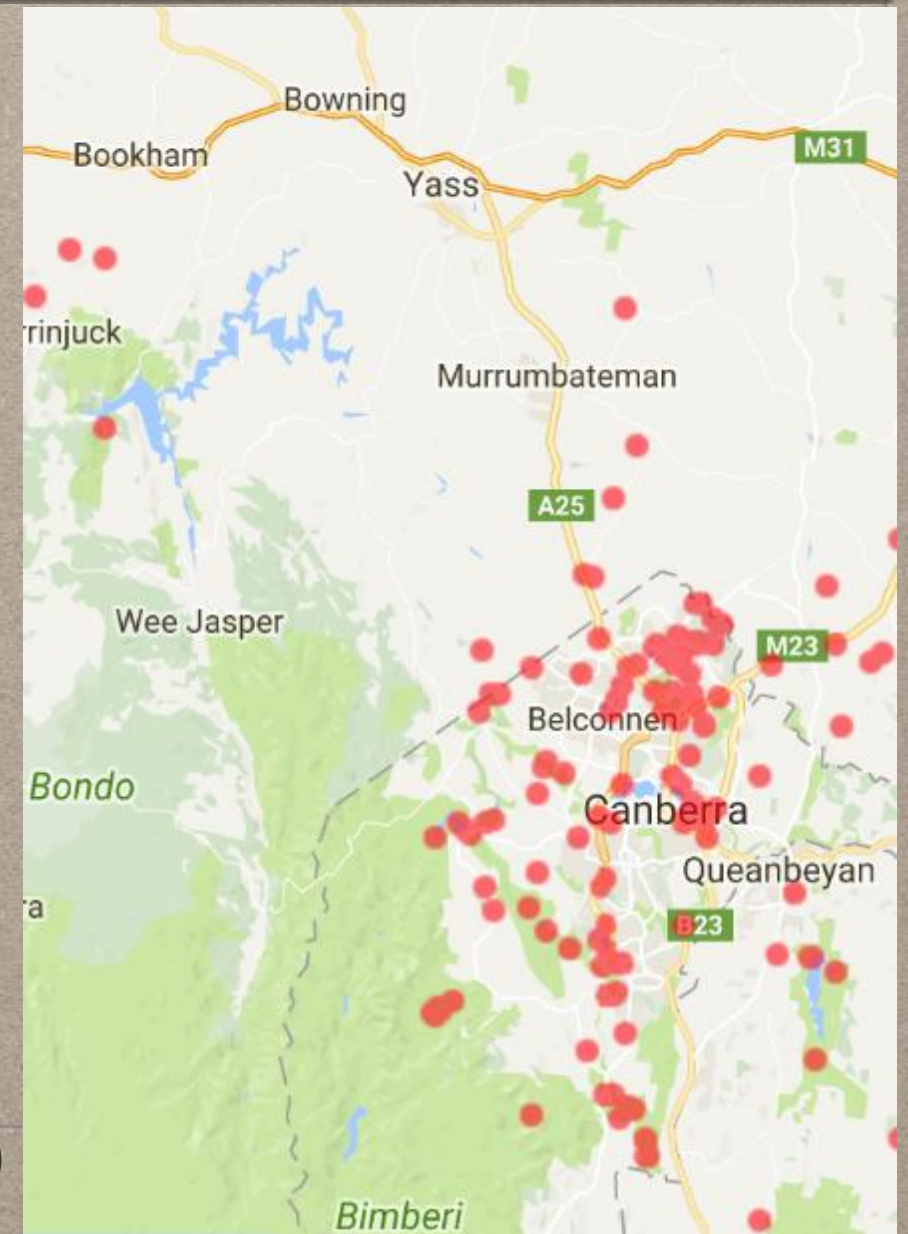
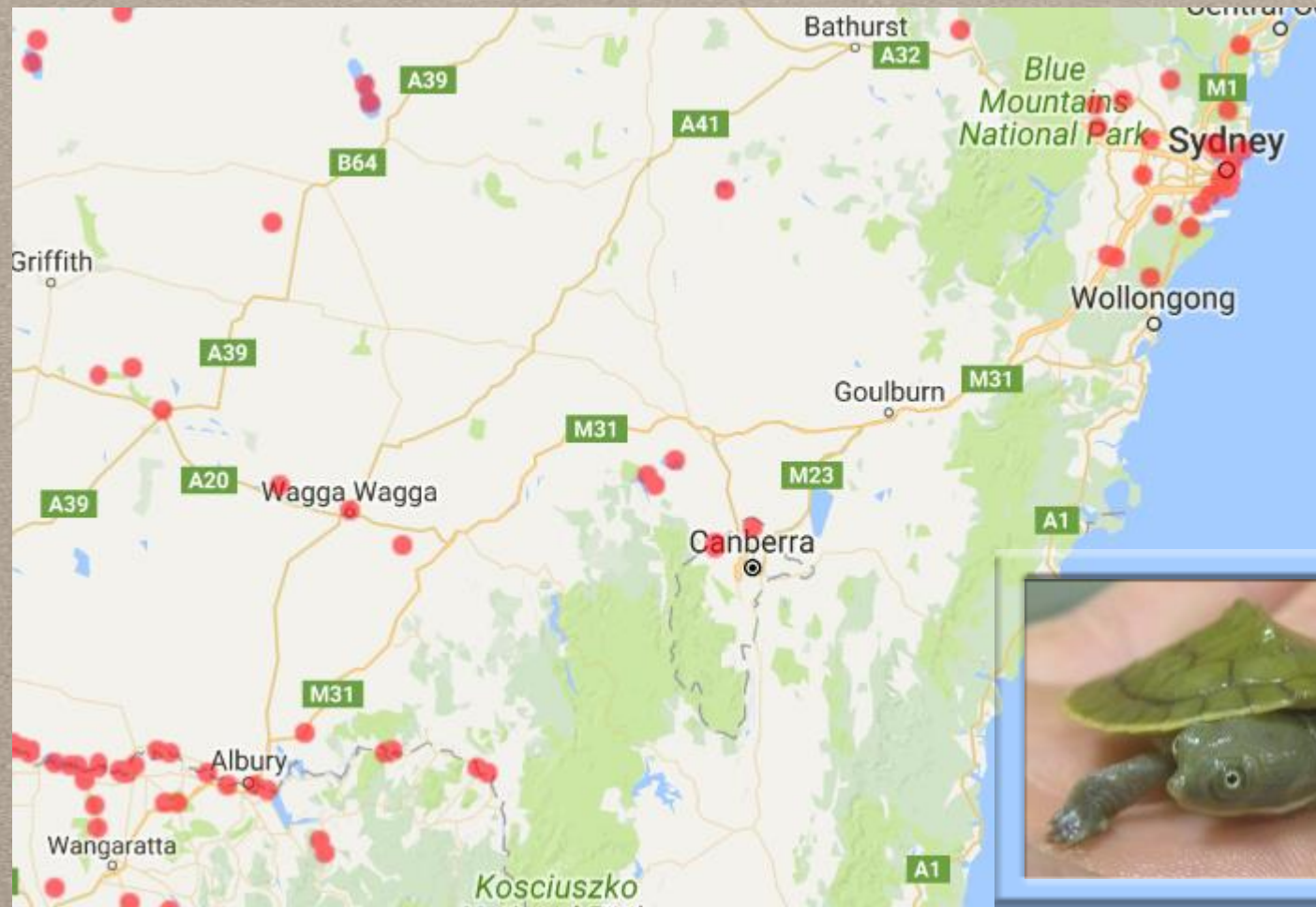
***Elapid*** (9-12)

***Total species = 57-66***





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**Murray (short-neck) turtle (above left)**  
*Emydura macquarii*

**Eastern long-neck turtle (above right)**  
*Chelodina longicollis*



# ***Lizards***



***Dragons***



***Monitors (goannas)***



***Geckos***



***Skinks***



***Legless lizards***

***Measuring length lizards & snakes:***

**TL** - total length.

**SVL** - tip of the nose (snout) to vent.



# Dragons

**Australia: 11 genera, 70 species.**

**ACT/Yass: 5 genera, 6 species**

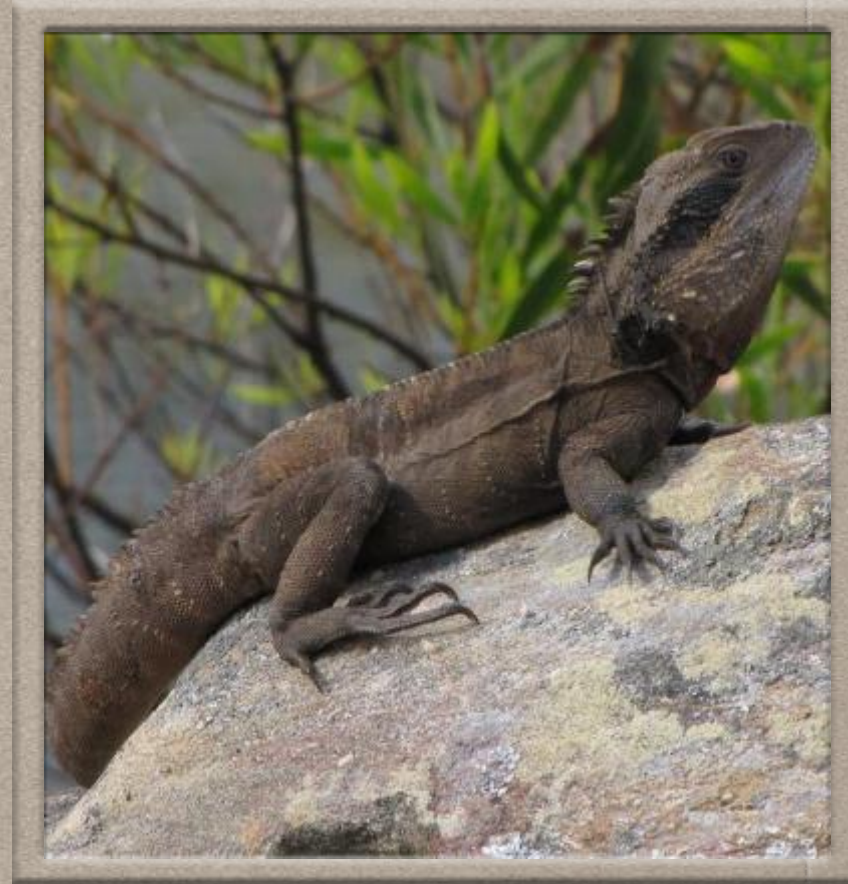
**Common:**

**Water dragon (top), Aust: 1 species.**

**Eastern bearded dragon (bottom), Aust: 6 species.**

**Jacky lizard or tree dragon.**

*Physignathus  
lesueurii,*  
SVL 245 mm



*Pogona  
barbata,*  
SVL 250 mm





# ***Three similar dragons***

***Jacky (top), Nobbi (middle) and Mountain (bottom).***

***SVL is***

***Jacky - 120mm***

***Nobbi - 84mm***

***Mountain - 82mm***

***However, all dragons (including water & bearded ) look similar when young.***

Photos top to bottom -

*Amphibolurus mutinuous* and *A. nobbi*, & *Rankina diemensis*.

by Warren Saunders, John Wombey and Roger Farrow.





# **Grassland earless dragon**

***Eight earless dragon species in Australia.***

***GED found in some natural grassland sites, climbs tussock grasses otherwise a ground dweller.***

***Unlike other dragons, Tail slight/curls.***

***Populations - ACT & southern Monaro.***

***GED thought extinct, re-discovered, crashed in drought, captive breeding, future?***



*Tympanocryptis pinguicollis.*

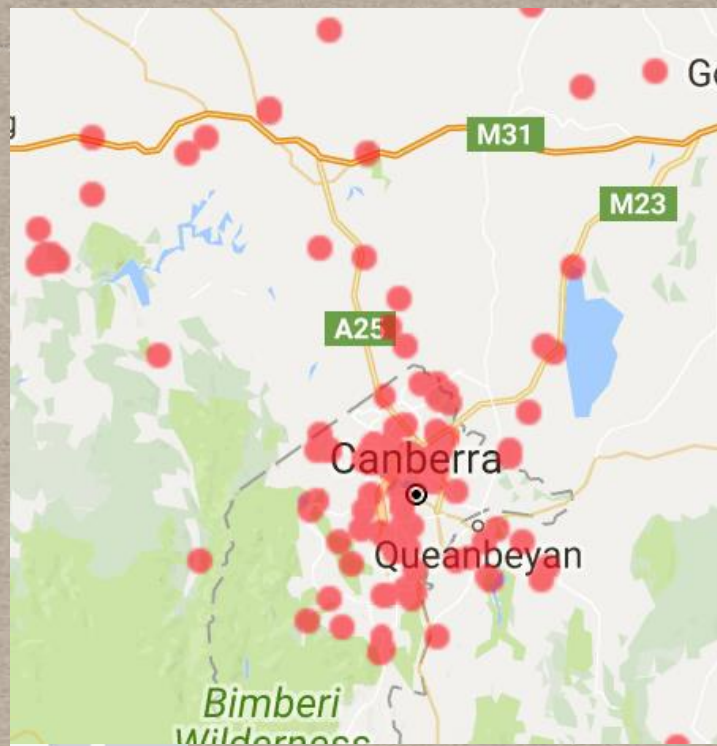
SVL 55mm.

Bottom photo: Margaret Ning.

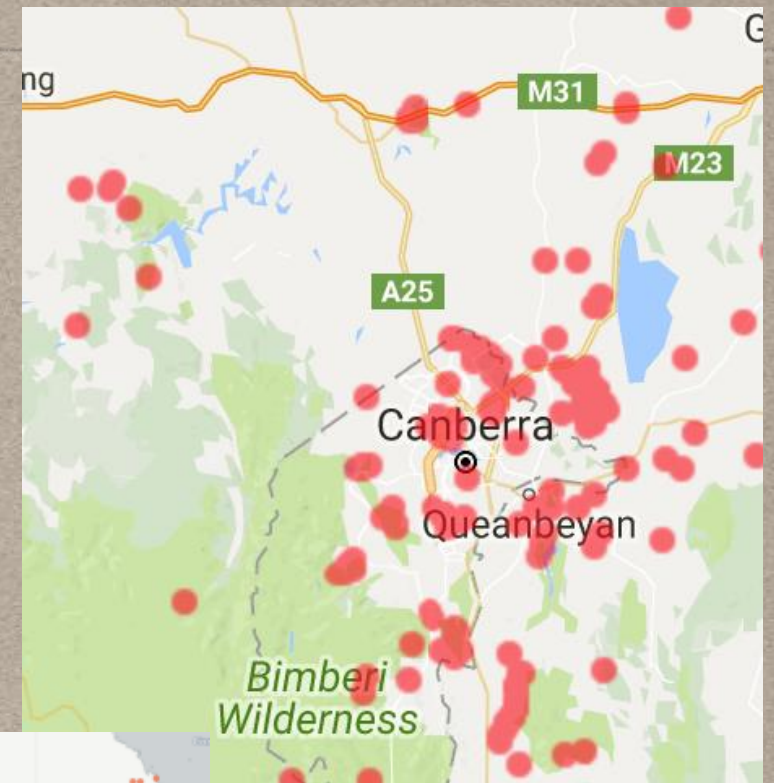




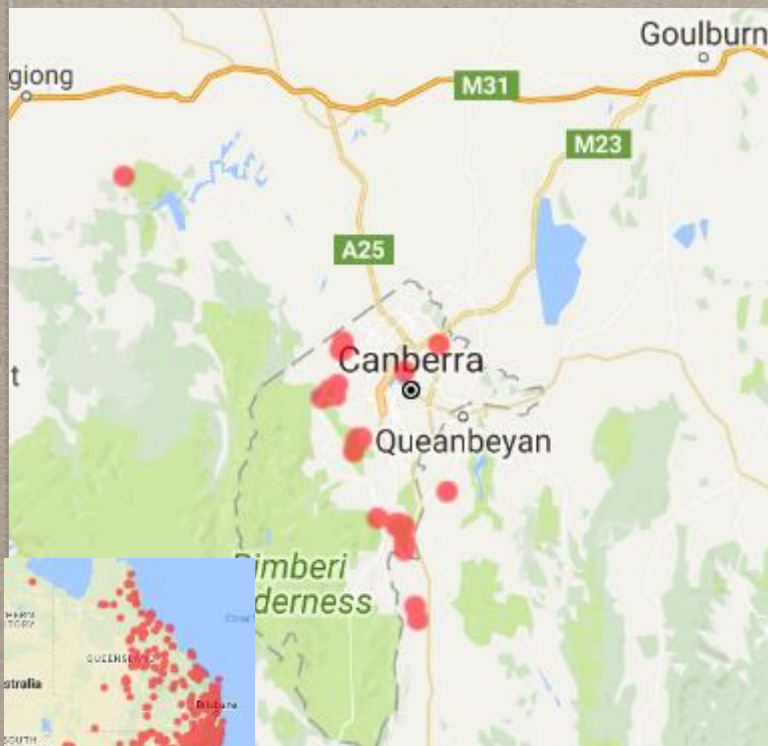
*Water dragon*



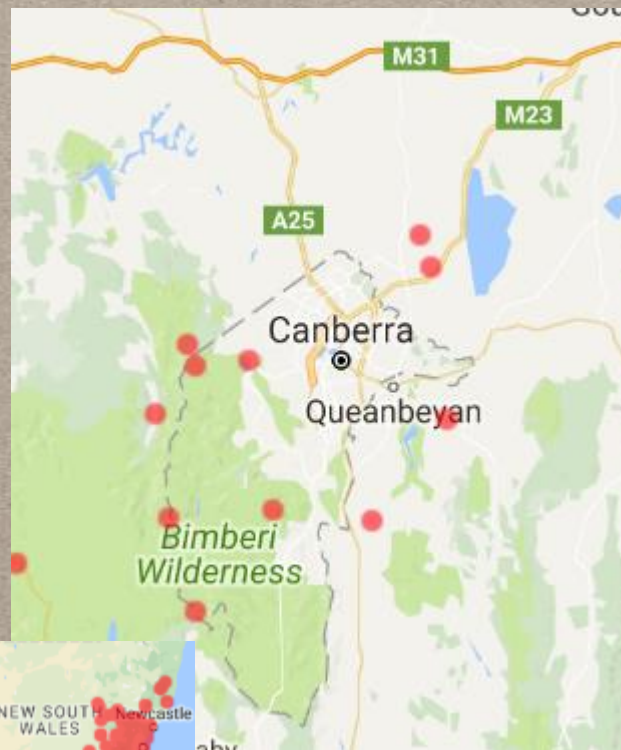
*Bearded dragon*



*Jacky dragon*



*Nobbi dragon*



*Mountain dragon*



*Grassland earless dragon*



# Gecko

**Australia: 18 genera & 111 species**

**ACT/Yass: 2 species**

**Stone gecko (right)**

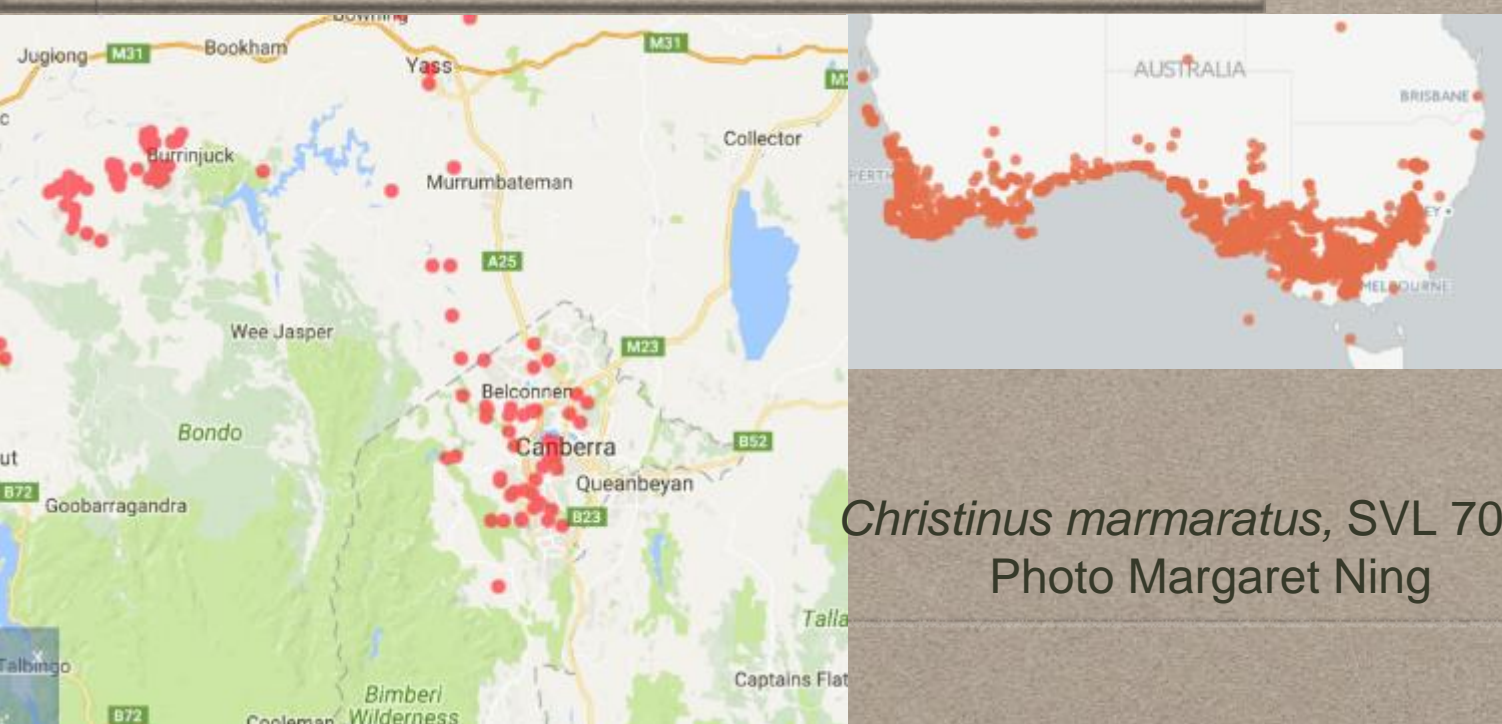
**Marble gecko (below)**



*Diplodactylus vittatus*,  
SVL 50mm  
Photo John Wombey



*Christinus marmoratus*, SVL 70mm  
Photo Margaret Ning





# Legless lizards

**Related to geckos**

**Australia: 7 genera & 38 species**

**ACT/Yass: 2 genera & 5 species**

**Unlike snakes:**

- **Large fleshy tongue (cf forked).**
- **Cannot curl.**
- **Have teeth not fangs.**
- **Cannot extend jaws like snakes.**
- **TVL to TL 20-50%, snakes 90%.**
- **Locomotion/skeleton very different.**
- **Have ears & squeal.**
- **Limited heat/vibration/chemical sensing.**



*Lialis burtonis*, SVL170mm  
Photo John Wombey

**Burton's snake lizard (pictured above), one Australian & one PNG species.**

**Likes to bask, feeds on reptiles.**



# ***Delma***

***Australia: 17 species.***

***ACT/Yass: 2 species.***

***Striped legless lizard.***

***Olive legless lizard .***

*Delma impar*  
Photo Ross Bennet



*Delma impar*



*Delma inornata*



# ***Worm legless lizard***

***Australia: 12 species.***

***ACT/Yass: 1 species.***

***Pink tail worm lizard.***



*Aprasia parapulchella*, SVL 140 mm  
Photo by Ross Bennet

# ***Scaly foot lizards***

***Australia: 5 species.***

***ACT/Yass: 1? species.***



*Pygopus lepidopodus*, SVL 240 mm  
Photo Tara Goodsell





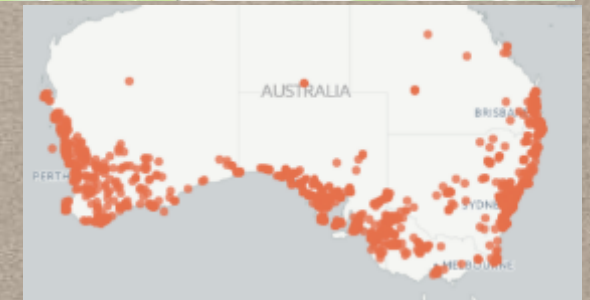
**Burton's lizard**



**Pink-tailed worm lizard**



**Scalyfoot**



**Striped legless-lizard**

**Olive legless-lizard**





# Monitors (goannas)

**Goannas are related to snakes**

**World: 1 genus/50 species**

**Australia: 50 species**

**ACT/Yass: 2 species**

**Lace monitor (Right)**

**Rosenberg's monitor  
(Below)**

*Varinus varius*,  
Length 2.1m.

Photo by Judy Huxley.

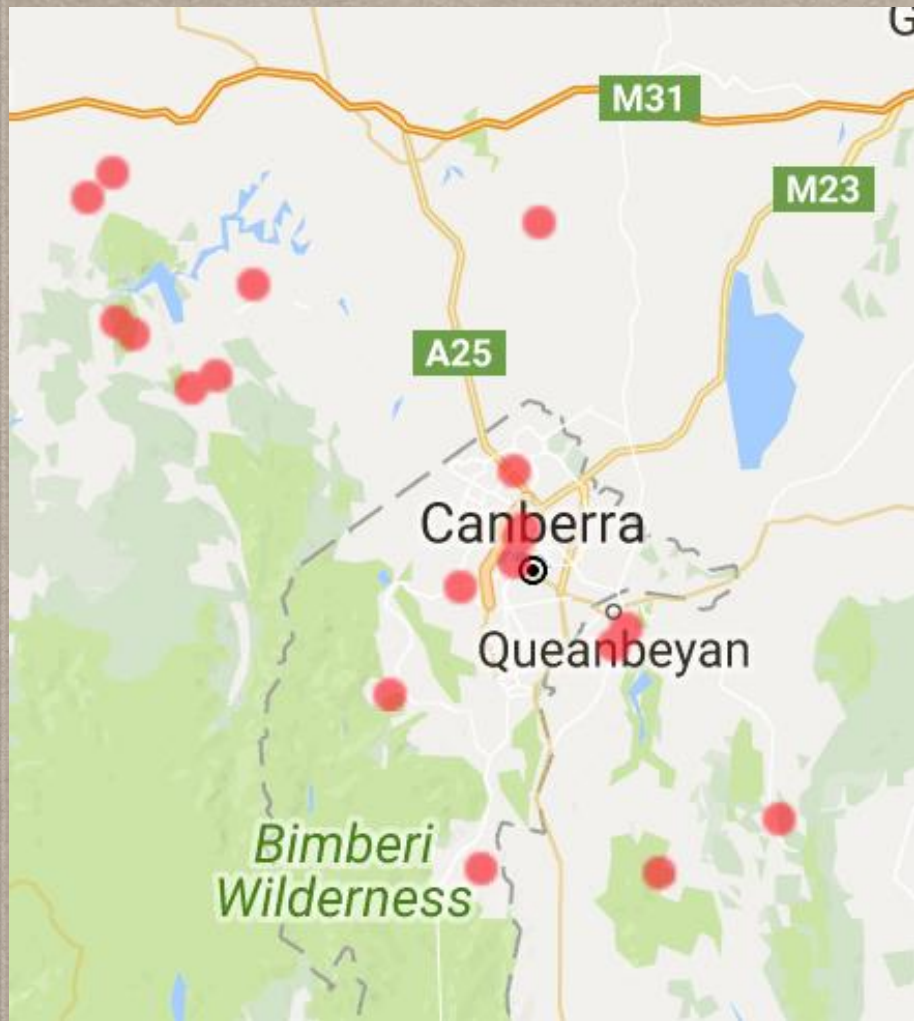


*Varinus rosenbergi*,  
Length 1.5m.

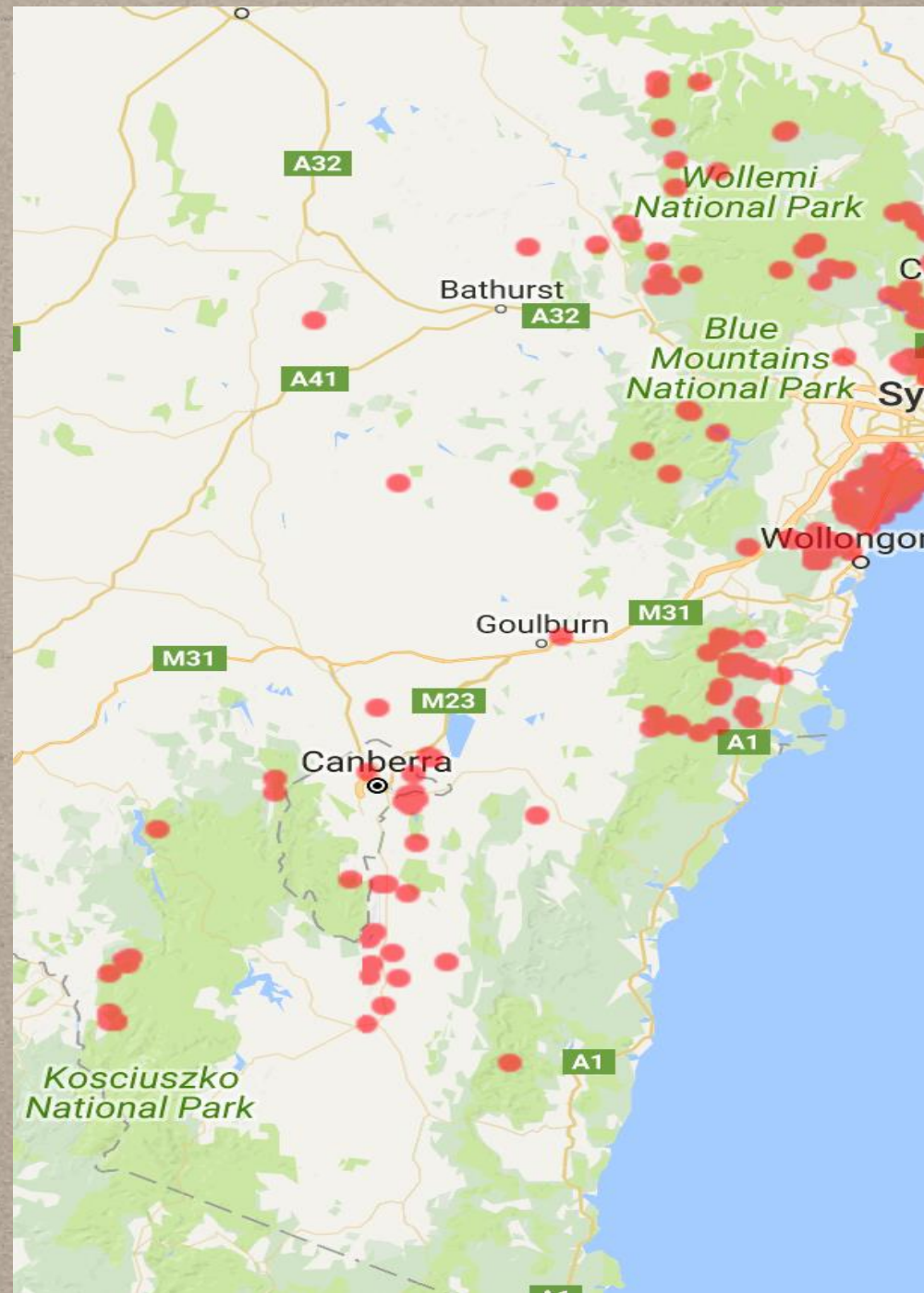
Photo by Sheridan Roberts.







*Lace monitor*



*Rosenberg's monitor*





# Skinks

**Worldwide: about 1500 species.**

**Australia: about 33 genera/320 species.**

**ACT/Yass region 32-35 species.**

**Egernia group - blue tongues & rock skinks; skinks with bulky bodies.**

**Example: Blotched blue tongue - top**

**Sphenomorphus group - striped, water and three-toed skinks.**

**Example: Southern water skink - middle**

**Eugongylus group - many small skink genera.**

**Example: Common garden skink - bottom**





# ***Egernia* group**



*Tiliqua*

*Egernia*

***ACT/Yass: 3 genera/9 species:***

***Blue tongue skinks (Tiliqua)***

***Australia: 6 & Canberra/Yass: 3 species.***

***Rock skinks (Egernia)***

***Australia: 14 & Canberra/Yass: 3 species.***

***Rock skinks (Liopholis)***

***Australia: 11 & Canberra/Yass 3 species.***



*Liopholis*



# **Blue tongues (Tiliqua)**

*T. rugosa*  
SVL 260-310mm



**Shingleback (aka bobtail, stumpy-tail,  
boggi) (right).**

**Eastern blue tongue (below).**

**Blotched blue tongue (bottom right).**

*T. nigrolutea*  
SVL 300mm



*T. scincoides* SVL 300-320mm. Photo by Margaret Ning





# Rock skinks (*Egernia*)

Cunningham's skink (top).

Black rock skinks (right).

Tree skink (below).



*E. cunninghami*  
SVL 200mm.



*E. saxatilis*  
SVL 135 mm



*E. striolata*  
SVL 100mm



# Rock skinks (*Liopholis*)

*L. montana*. SVL 70-80mm.  
Photo by John Wombey.

Tan-back rock skink (top).

Snowy mountain rock skink (right).

White's skink - two forms (bottom):

*E. guthega*. SVL 90-100mm. Photo: A  
*Field Guide to Reptiles of New South  
Wales*, by Swan, Shea and Sadlerby.



*E. whitii*. (bottom) SVL  
113mm.  
photo left of uncommon form  
by Pierre Cochard.





# ***Sphenomorphus* group**

***ACT/Yass: 3 genera and 8 species***

***Striped skinks (Ctenotus)***

***Australia: 95 & ACT/Yass: 3 species.***

***Water skinks (Eulamprus)***

***Australia: 15 & ACT/Yass: 4 species.***

***Three-toed skink (Hemiergus)***

***Australia: 5 & ACT/Yass: 1 species.***





# Striped skinks (*Ctenotus*)

**Eastern striped skink (top). Has dots along the side and two lines of dots on back. Rare.**

*C. orientalis*.  
SVL 82mm.

Photo: John Wombey



**Robust striped skink (middle). Dots on side but not on back. Grows to a large size. Common.**

**Copper-tailed skink (bottom). No dots. Canberra species has copper tail. Common.**

*C. robustus*  
SVL 123 mm.



*C. taeniolatus*  
SVL 80 mm.





***Copper tailed-skinks also illustrate how variable a species may be.***

***Monaro south of Canberra (top), outer stripes on back are black and no copper tail.***

***Sydney (right), outer stripes on back are brown and no copper tail.***

***Canberra (below) - outer stripes on back are brown and a copper tail.***



Photo above:  
John Wombey





# Water skinks (*Eulamprus*)

*All found near water.*

*Yellow-bellied water skink (top) Common found in lower parts of the landscape in and around Canberra.*

*Southern water skink (right). Found at higher altitudes.*

*Alpine water skink (below). Found in alpine bogs.*



*E. heatwolei* SVL 100mm.



*E. tympanum*. SVL 93-97mm.



*E. kosciuskoi*. SVL 85mm.



# ***Three-toed skink*** ***(Eulamprus)***

***Long, glossy looking, three  
toes on hands and feet.  
Yellow belly.***

***Usually found below ground,  
under rocks etc.***





# ***Eugongylus* group**

**ACT/Yass: 9 genera and 14 species**

## **Re-throated (*Acritoscincus*)**

***Somewhat largish and striking skinks. Australia 3, ACT/Yass 2 species.***



## **Garden skinks (*Lampropholis*)**

***Australia 11 species, Canberra region 2.***



## **Mostly grass skinks (*Pseudemoia*)**

***Australia 6, ACT/Yass 4 species.***

## **Reduced limbs or elongated skinks**

**(*Carlia*, *Mentia*, *Morethia* &**

***Nannoscincus*)**

***Australia many genera and species. ACT/Yass: 4 genera, 4 species.***



## **Other small skinks (*Niveoscincus* & *Saproscincus*)**

***Australia many genera and species. ACT/Yass: 2 genera, 2 species.***



# ***Red-throated skinks (Acritoscincus)***

***Eastern three-lined skink (right).  
Does not develop red throat in  
Canberra region.***

***Red-throated skink (below)***

*A. platynotum.*  
SVL 80mm.

*A. duperreyi.*  
SVL 80mm.





# Garden skinks (*Lampropholis*)

**Both common incl home garden & similar in appearance.**

**Common garden skink (right & middle). Blue flecks & may have stripe down back.**

**Delicate skink (below). Lacks blue flecks and sometimes stripe pattern is hard to detect.**



*L. guichenoti*. SVL 48mm.  
*L. delicata*. SVL 51mm.





# Mostly grass skinks (*Pseudemoia*)

*Grassland tussock skink (right column)*

*Glossy grass skink (below). Restricted to alpine and high montane areas.*

*P. rawlinsoni*. SVL 62mm. Photo: *A Field Guide to Reptiles of New South Wales*, by Swan, Shea and Sadlierby.



*P. pagenstecheri*. SVL 59-62mm.





# Mostly grass skinks (*Pseudemoia*)

*continued*

*P. entrecasteauxii*.  
SVL 58-64mm.

**Southern grass skink.**  
**Variable species, sometimes**  
**referred to as a complex**  
**(Top and middle). Restricted**  
**to higher altitudes.**

**Spencer's skink (bottom).**  
**Easily recognisable. Tends**  
**to inhabit rocks.**



*P. spenceri*.  
SVL 65mm.





# **Reduced limbs & digits &/or elongated skinks**

**Rainbow skink (right) has four fingers & five toes. One of 30 Australian *Carlia* species. North & west of Canberra.**

*C. tetradactyla* SVL 64mm.  
Photo by John Womby.



**MacCoy's skink (right), the only skink in the *Nannoscincus* genus. Elongated and with reduced limbs, it resembles the three-toed skink but has 5 fingers & toes.**

**Burrowing species, located in wet sclerophyll forests, far south east corner of NSW and Victoria.**

*N. maccoyi* SVL 50mm.  
Photo by John Wombey.





# **Reduced limbs & digits &/or elongated skinks**

*continued*

***Grey's skink (right), one of eight Australian Menetia species. It has four fingers & five toes.***

*M. greyii*. SVL 38mm.  
Photo by John Wombey



***Boulenger's skink (right), one of four Australian Morethia species. It looks like Grey's skink but has five fingers & toes.***

*M. boulengeri*. SVL 50mm  
Photo by John Wombey





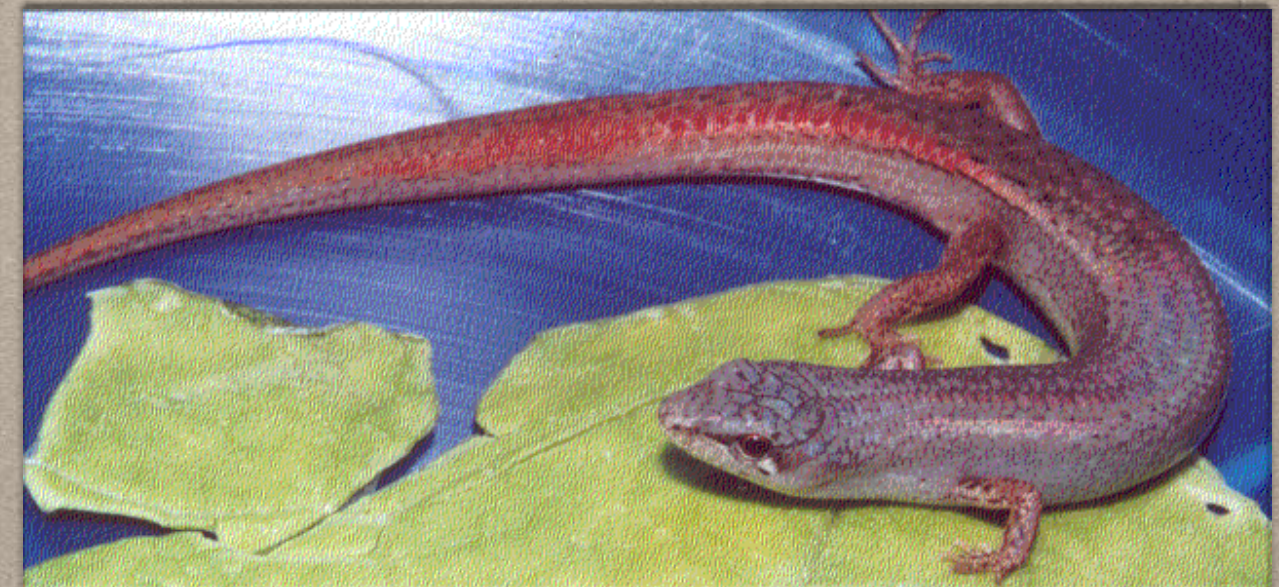
# ***Two other small skinks***

N. coventryi. SVL 50mm.  
Photo by John Wombey

***Snow skink. One of eight Niveoscincus species (top). A high country specialist.***



***Weasel skink one of ten Saproscincus species (middle & bottom). While from far south east of New South Wales, colonies are turning up in Canberra, possibly accidentally translocated.***



S. mustelinus. SVL 55mm.  
Middle photo by Margaret Ning.





# Snakes

Blackish blind snake

A common measurement for snakes is Total Length (TL).

***ACT/Yass region has***

- ***One blind snake of 41 Australian species***
- ***One python; Australia has 4 genera and 13 of the world's 25 species.***
- ***Venomous (front-fanged or elapid) snakes. Australia has 90 species in 26 genera. Canberra region has 10 genera and 12 species.***



Carpet python



Highland copperhead





# ***Brown snake*** ***(Pseudonaja)***

Top right photo  
by John Wombey.

***Eastern brown snake (Pseudonaja  
textilis) is one of seven Australian  
brown snakes.***

***Variety of colours & young have  
brown heads.***

***The most common species in  
ACT/Yass region.***

***Highly venomous, even when young.***

***Total length 1.6m***





# ***Red-bellied black snake (Pseudechis)***

***Red-bellied snake (Pseudechis porphyriacus) is one of six Australian black snakes.***

***Common species in ACT/Yass region.***

***While highly venomous, no known deaths caused by this snake.***

***Total length 1.5 to 2m.***



Photo by Tara Goodsell.



# ***Tiger snake (Notechis)***

***Australian has only one  
species of tiger snake.***

***The tiger snake is highly  
venomous and is  
common in some areas in  
ACT/Yass region.***

***Tiger snakes have a large  
colour variation as top  
photo at Rowes Lagoon  
and bottom photo at  
Garuwanga near  
Nimmitabel show.***



*N. scaturus*. TL 900mm-2m.

Photos by John Wombey (above) by Margaret Ning (below).



# ***Two more large snakes***

***Highland Copperhead (right). Common in high country.***

***Common Death adder. Found along escarpment but not in Canberra.***

***Australia 3 species of copperhead and 4 species of death adder.***



*Austrelaps ramsayi* TL 1.1m.



*Acanthiophis antarcticus* 700mm (max 1m).



# Hooded and whip snakes

**Hooded snakes (*Parasuta*). Australia has 6 species and there are 2 local species:**

***Little whip snake (right)***

*P. flagellum*. TL 450mm.  
Photo John Wombey.

***Dwyer's snake (bottom right)***

**Whip snakes (*Demansia*). Australia has 6 species and there is one local species:**

***Yellow-faced whip snake (below)***

*D. psammophis*. TL 1m.  
Photo *A Field Guide to Reptiles of New South Wales*,  
Swan, Shea and Sadlier.



*P. dwyeri*. TL 600mm.  
Photo by Richard Longmore



# Crowned snakes (*Drysdalia*)

**Crowned snakes. Australia has 3 species and there are 2 local species:**

**White-lip snake, Right and right below.**

**Mustard-bellied snake, Below.**

Above: *D. rhodogaster*. TL 450mm.

Photo by *A Field Guide to Reptiles of New South Wales*, Swan, Shea and Sadler.



Above: *D. coronoides*. TL 450mm.

Top photo by John Wombey



*Cryptophis*. 5 species. Local species: eastern small-eyed snake, *C. nigrescens*. TL 500mm, rarely 1m.



*Vermicilla*. Bandy bandy. 5 species. Local species: *V. annulata*. 760mm.



Photos: top by Tara Goodsell and bottom right by John Wombey.



# Acknowledgements

John Wombey who provided the initial slides and information.

Many people providing the slides mentioned throughout the presentation.

And special thanks to members of the ACT Herpetological Association.

