



Fourth Crossing Wildlife factsheet



Eastern Bearded Dragon

scientific name

"*Pogona barbata*"

Also known as "*Amphibolurus barbatus*"

other names

Jew Dragon, Jew Lizard and Bearded Lizard



Description

Variable in colour, from pale grey or fawn to brown, reddish-brown or almost black. Series of pale oblong blotches, either side of mid-dorsal line. Tail is short and mostly round and is often banded. Lining of mouth bright yellow. Head and body heavily built. Throat with well developed pouch or "beard" in adults, its hind edge bordered by long spiny scales. Grow up to 55cm in length.

The Eastern Bearded Dragon is found in the eastern and south eastern parts of Australia, excluding Cape York and Tasmania and in the southern areas of the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia. It is one of Australia's most common lizards and is widespread in its region. Habitat is considerably varied but it mainly wooded. The lizard is semi-arboreal (climbs trees). It is seen during the day, often basking in the sun or foraging for food. Diet consist mainly of insects (including snails, grasshoppers and bugs), other small lizards, flowers and soft native herbs. When threatened the dragon displays its 'beard' which splays out around the underside of the neck. The Eastern Bearded Dragon mates from August to December each year and males have a series of mating rituals to attract females, including hand waving, head bobbing, push-ups and colour changing. The mother lays up to three clutches in a season, in soil, with between 14 to 31 soft shelled eggs in each clutch. Eggs are about the size of a 10 cent piece. Hatchlings emerge from the soil about 45 to 79 days later (around March). Babies are around 9cm in length.