

PART V

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

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INTRODUCTION

The following list is based on specimens collected on proposed and existing reserves at Lake Disappointment (hereinafter designated LD) in the Gibson Desert (GD), at Carnarvon Range (CR) and at Yeo Lake (YL) by Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Western Australian Museum, and CSIRO Wildlife Research personnel. McKenzie, and Burbidge and McKenzie (this publication) include details of personnel, itineraries and boundaries of the proposed and existing reserves visited. Relevant data from Western Australian Museum catalogues are included as well as data from Pianka (1969). His study areas Y and E were respectively 5 to 7 km East of Stony Point (28°05'S, 124°15'E), which is well within Yeo Lake proposed reserve, and 8 km NE of Dungs Table (28°08'S, 123°55'E) which is just outside the western boundary of Yeo Lake proposed reserve. Records from the latter locality are entered in square brackets.

Specimens collected by us are lodged in the Western Australian Museum under numbers R40325-40363, R51863-51945, R53510-53616 and R53620-53682.

Habitat notes are given where possible.

LIST OF SPECIES

ANURA

FAMILY LEPTODACTYLIDAE Ground Frogs

Cyclorana maini Tyler

Collected at LD, CR and YL.

Masses of tadpoles in drying pools in Yeo Lake on 9 March. Adults in pools at Durba Spring 26 November and Carnarvon Range 20 November.

FAMILY HYLIDAE Tree Frogs

Litoria rubella (Gray)

Collected at CR.

Adults and juveniles in same pool as *Cyclorana maini* but on 28 and 30 March.

REPTILIA

FAMILY GEKKONIDAE Geckos

Diplodactylus ciliaris Boulenger

Collected at LD, CR, YL and [E].

Up to 2 m above the ground in dead or sparse, open shrubs.

Diplodactylus conspicillatus Lucas and Frost

Collected at CR, YL and [E].

On sand among spinifex at night.

Diplodactylus elderi Stirling and Zeitz

Collected at LD, GD, YL and [E].

Burnt from *Plectrachne* and *Triodia* on various substrates. Never seen active at night, presumably because of its scansorial habits (it confines itself to stalking within spinifex clumps).

Diplodactylus stenodactylus Boulenger

Collected at [E].

Diplodactylus strophurus (Dumeril and Bibron)

Collected at GD and YL.

Found in dead or sparse shrubs.

Gehyra variegata (Dumeril and Bibron)

Collected at LD, CR and YL.

Mostly in trees (usually mulga). Also in leaf litter and under debris.

Gehyra sp.

Collected from LD and CR.

Lake Disappointment specimen from sandstone cliff above pool.

Heteronotia binoei (Gray)

Collected at LD and YL.

Yeo Lake specimens among jumbled laterite at Point Sunday breakaway.

Nephrurus laevis Mertens

Collected at CR and YL.

On dune crests at night.

Nephrurus levis pilbarensis Storr

Collected at CR.

Three on sand among spinifex at night.

Nephrurus vertebralis Storr

Collected at YL.

One on *Atriplex* flat and another on a sandy interdune.

Oedura marmorata Gray

Collected at CR.

All specimens active in trees or on sandstone at night.

Rhynchoedura ornata Günther

Collected at LD, CR, YL and [E].

On clayey soil at night.

FAMILY PYGOPODIDAE Legless Lizards

Delma nasuta Kluge

Collected at GD.

Burnt from *Plectrachne* on loamy alluvial soil.

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Lialis burtonis Gray
Collected at LD and [E].

Pygopus nigriceps (Fischer)
Collected at LD.

FAMILY AGAMIDAE **Dragon Lizards**

Amphibolurus caudicinctus caudicinctus × *mensarum*
Collected at LD and CR.
On bare expanses of sandstone.

Amphibolurus caudicinctus ? subsp.
Collected at GD.
One juvenile collected on laterite at Young Range.

Amphibolurus clayi Storr
Collected at YL and [E].
Burnt from spinifex on sandy interdune.

Amphibolurus fordi Storr
Collected at YL and [E].
One on dune crest.

Amphibolurus inermis (de Vis)
Collected at LD and [E].

Amphibolurus isolepis gularis Sternfeld
Collected at LD, CR, GD, YL and [E].
Common on sandy soil.

Amphibolurus minor Sternfeld
Collected at LD, YL and [E].
The specimen from Miller Soak (YL) was perched on a dead tree.

Amphibolurus reticulatus (Gray)
Collected at LD, GD and YL.
One in burrow in hard clayey floor of Yeo Lake. Also on bare stony ground with mulga.

Amphibolurus scutulatus Stirling and Zietz
Collected at YL.
Confined to heavier soils with mulga.

Diporiphora winneckeii Lucas and Frost
Collected at LD and [E].

Moloch horridus Gray
Collected at LD, YL and [E].
Yeo Lake specimen on a sandy track in interdune.

Lophognathus longirostris Boulenger
Collected at LD, CR and [E].
Along watercourses at Carnarvon Range and Durba Springs (LD).

FAMILY SCINCIDAE **Skinks**

Cryptoblepharus plagioccephalus (Cocteau)
Collected at LD and CR.
On tree trunks.

Ctenotus brooksi brooksi (Loveridge)
Collected at [E].

Ctenotus calurus Storr
Collected at GD, CR and [E].
Gibson Desert specimen running among spinifex mid-morning.

Ctenotus colletti nasutus Storr
Collected at [E].

Ctenotus dux Storr
Collected at CR, YL and [E].
Carnarvon Range specimen in "spinifex on dune".

Ctenotus grandis Storr
Collected at LD, GD, CR and [E].
6 specimens collected by our party; all from sandy soil.

Ctenotus helenae Storr
Collected at LD, GD, YL and [E].
Two specimens were burnt from *Plectrachne* on alluvial soil in watercourse running out of Young Range (GD).

Ctenotus leae (Boulenger)
Collected at [E].

Ctenotus leonhardii (Sternfeld)
Collected at LD, GD, and YL.

Ctenotus pantherinus ocellifer (Boulenger)
Collected at LD, GD, CR, YL and [E].
From spinifex on various substrates (sand, loam and sandstone).

Ctenotus piankai piankai Storr
Collected at [E].

Ctenotus quattuordecimlineatus Sternfeld
Collected at GD, YL and [E].
Specimen from Yeo Lake in interdune vegetated with marble gums and mallee. Gibson Desert specimen from side of poorly vegetated dune.

Ctenotus affin. *saxatilis* Storr.
Collected at LD and CR.
Specimens from tangles of *Plectrachne* and low shrubs from gullies in Carnarvon Range and deep couch grass at edge of pool, Durba Spring.

Ctenotus schomburgkii Peters
Collected at YL and [E].
Two specimens from loamy soil with mulga.

Ctenotus uber uber Storr
Collected at CR.
One under mulga log.

Egernia depressa (Günther)
Collected at CR.

Egernia formosa Fry

Collected at CR.

Under bark of mulga 1.5 m above ground.

Egernia inornata Rosèn

Collected at YL and [E].

Egernia striata Sternfeld

Collected at GD, CR, YL and [E].

All three collected by our party were from break-back traps; two from one burrow complex on clayey soil with mulga (YL) and one from side of low dune (GD).

Lerista bipes (Fischer)

Collected at GD, YL and [E].

Burnt from spinifex or scooped from top few centimetres of sand on dunes.

Lerista desertorum (Sternfeld)

Collected at CR and [E].

Menetia greyii Gray

Collected at GD and [E].

From spinifex on gravelly flat.

Morethia butleri Storr

Collected at [E].

Omolepida branchialis (Günther)

Collected at CR.

Stony ground at foot of range.

Sphenomorphus richardsonii (Gray)

Collected at LD, GD and YL.

Two specimens from Yeo Lake dug from burrow in moist loamy soil under rubbish.

Tiliqua multifasciata Sternfeld

Collected at CR.

In pit trap in red sandplain with spinifex.

FAMILY VARANIDAE **Goannas**

Varanus acanthurus Boulenger

Collected at CR.

At bottom of scree slope with spinifex and *Acacia*.

Varanus eremius Lucas and Frost

Collected at [E].

Varanus giganteus (Gray)

Collected at LD, GD and CR. Observed at YL.

Varanus gouldii (Gray)

Collected at CR, YL and [E].

Varanus tristis (Schlegel)

Collected at LD, GD, YL and [E].

Specimens from Red Bluff (YL) and Young Range (GD) from unused Fairy Martin nests. Specimen from Durba Spring (LD) from dead tree.

FAMILY TYPHLOPIDAE **Blind Snakes**

Typhlina nigroterminata (Parker)

Collected at LD.

FAMILY BOIDAE **Pythons**

Liasis childreni (Gray)

Collected at LD and YL.

Among laterite boulders at Point Sunday (YL).

FAMILY ELAPIDAE **Front-fanged Snakes**

Furina christieana (Fry)

Collected at LD.

Pseudechis australis (Gray)

Collected at CR and YL.

One in well at Yeo Lake, another in Elliott trap in gully in Carnarvon Range.

DISCUSSION

We collected 52 species of herptile on the four proposed and existing reserves: 22 from the Lake Disappointment Area, 18 from Gibson Desert Nature Reserve, 30 from Carnarvon Range Area and 27 from Yeo Lake Area. With the addition of data derived from previous collecting, 47 species are known from Yeo Lake.

It is difficult to compare the faunas of the individual areas because we do not know how complete the species lists are, although Pianka's (1969) thorough collecting gives some indication (44 species of lizards, compared to our 27 herptiles, for the Yeo Lake area).

When we combine Pianka's Yeo Lake and Dunges Table lists with our combined list for the four areas, most species which could be expected in the Little Sandy, Gibson and Great Victoria Deserts are present. The few absentees are mostly fossorial herptiles such as *Neobatrachus*, *Lerista*, *Typhlina* and *Vermicella* spp.

One of the two *Vermicella anomala* collected in the Eastern Division of Western Australia is from Well 24 (Canning Stock Route), about 50 km NE of the Lake Disappointment area. Other important specimens from Well 24 are the only Eastern Division specimen of *Sphenomorphus fasciolatus* and a series of 13 *Amphibolurus isolepis isolepis* x *Amphibolurus isolepis gularis* hybrids.

One of only 6 known specimens of *Ctenotus ariadnae* is from 96 km east of Dunges Table, only 16 km outside the eastern boundary of the Yeo Lake proposed reserve (Storr 1968). This species is only known from four localities.

The Western Australian Museum has two *Neobatrachus centralis* from 32 km south of Durba Hills, just outside the Lake Disappointment Area.

Pianka's study area E is the type locality of *Ctenotus colletti nasutus* and *Ctenotus dux*.

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**THE WILDLIFE OF SOME EXISTING AND
PROPOSED NATURE RESERVES IN THE
GIBSON, LITTLE SANDY AND
GREAT VICTORIA DESERTS,
Western Australia**

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