

Pygmy Bluetongue Lizard Facts

Pygmy Bluetongue Lizards were rediscovered near Burra, South Australia, Australia in 1992. Prior to this they had not been seen since the 1950's.

Although over 20 populations are now known to live in the South Australian bush, they are still classified as endangered.

The Burra region is also known as Ngadjuri country.

Pygmy Bluetongue Lizards live in empty spider burrows. The burrows range in depth (from 10–75 cm), but are approximately 25 cm deep on average. The chamber at the bottom of the burrow gives the lizards room to easily move, turn around and curl up to sleep.

Pygmy Bluetongue Lizards sit at the entrance of their hole and wait for prey, which includes invertebrates such as spiders, grasshoppers, cockroaches and ants. They also eat a small amount of vegetation.

Predators of Pygmy Bluetongue Lizards like snakes and birds find it hard to get into the burrow.

Female Pygmy Bluetongue Lizards have their first litter when they are approximately 2 ½ years old. Litter size ranges from 1 to 4. The babies are about 5 cm long when born. They can grow to approximately 20 cm in length. The juveniles remain in the parental burrow for up to 12 weeks and then move out to find burrows of their own.

Pygmy Bluetongue Lizards have a pink tongue. They use their tongue to detect scents left by other lizards.

Pygmy Bluetongue populations can be adversely affected by the disturbance of native grassland ploughing, heavy grazing and the development of buildings, roads, and infrastructure. Climate change may also be a challenge for them. Research and conservation activities are helping to ensure their existence.

In 2014 the Pygmy Bluetongue Conservation Association was established. For more information about this organisation and the Pygmy Bluetongue Lizard please visit: <http://pygmybluetonguelizard.visitburra.com>

Pygmy Bluetongue Quiz

1. When were Pygmy Bluetongue Lizards rediscovered?
2. Where were Pygmy Bluetongue Lizards rediscovered?
3. Where do Pygmy Bluetongue Lizards live?
4. How long is a Pygmy Bluetongue Lizard burrow?
5. How long are Pygmy Bluetongue Lizards when they are born?
6. How long is an adult Pygmy Bluetongue Lizard?
7. What colour tongue do Pygmy Bluetongue Lizards have?
8. What is a Pygmy Bluetongue Lizards tongue used for?
9. What do Pygmy Bluetongue Lizards eat?
10. What eats Pygmy Bluetongue Lizards?