

Am I your Bush Bud?

Striped legless lizard

About me:

Don't get it wrong - the Striped Legless Lizard is a LIZARD, not a snake. Unlike a snake, the Striped Legless Lizard has eyelids and ear holes. It is listed as vulnerable and occurs throughout south-eastern Australia in treeless native grasslands.

Individuals are usually less than 300 millimetres long, weigh just 3-4 grams, and can live for up to 20 years. A pattern of alternate dark and light brown stripes runs the length of their bodies, beginning at the neck and becoming diagonal on the tail. The sides of the face usually have a yellow flush and the eyes have a pale ring of scales around them. When handled, individuals often emit a high-pitched squeak.

They burrow into soil in the late afternoon, re-emerging in the morning and remaining active during the day, basking in sunshine. Females lay two eggs a year in December-January, sometimes in communal clutches up to 36 eggs. They hatch in January-February.



Threats:

Approximately 99.5% of Natural Temperate Grassland in Australia has been destroyed or drastically altered since European settlement. The major threats to the Striped Legless Lizard is loss, fragmentation, modification and degradation of its native grassland habitat.

Become my Bush Bud!

Take a stand for Canberra's Nature and sign up to get the chance to walk with an expert in the habitat of the Striped Legless Lizard!

