

Yellow Spotted Lizard – The Demon of the Desert

Read this report to find out lots of fascinating facts about the yellow spotted lizard.



Adaptation

This unique reptile, which can grow up to 25cm in length, is mainly yellow and green in colour. Remarkably, this helps the lizard reduce heat absorption in the sweltering temperatures and camouflage itself from danger. To warn off predators, it possesses several (some say eleven) distinctive, poisonous spots. In order to climb out of holes, it has developed talon-like claws and strong, powerful legs. Incredibly, the lizard has developed razor-sharp teeth to help it graze on thorns and red eyelids to protect itself from the environment's harsh sandstorms.

Habitat

These fascinating, lizards are mainly found in arid wastelands across Texas, USA. Due to the lack of plant life in the environment, they seek shade from the sun in an unusual place: desert holes. Astonishingly, it is thought that a lizard can live in the exact same hole all of its life – meaning they're microhabitat specialists. Being a diurnal creature, they can be found during the day. However, I wouldn't get too close as they have been known to hospitalise wildlife enthusiasts in the past.

Diet

These food lovers are omnivores, which means they obtain their nutrients and energy from eating both plants and animals. Their rather healthy diet mainly consists of: sunflower seeds, cactus thorns, scorpions and spiders.

Did You Know?

The lethal lizards do have a weakness; they're repellent to... wait for it... ONIONS. In 2019, the famous duo – Stanley Yelnats and Hector Zoroni – wore onion necklaces and managed to take a dive into a yellow spotted lizard infested hole and lived to tell the tale.

To find out even more about these fascinating lizards, visit my website. www.thedemonofthedesert.com

And remember... If you ever find yourself visiting the Texas desert, take a bag of onions with you. They might just save your life!