

Fauna of Australia

**Amphibia
& Reptilia**





Pl. 1.1 *Rana daemeli* (Ranidae): the only member of the Ranidae in Australia; Cape York and Arnhem Land. [J. Wombey]



Pl. 1.2 *Bufo marinus* (Bufonidae): the introduced cane toad, which has expanded its range from north-eastern Australia into the Northern Territory and New South Wales. [J. Wombey]



Pl. 1.3 *Cophixalus ornatus* (Microhylidae): usually found in leaf litter, this tiny frog is endemic to the wet tropics of northern Queensland.
[H. Cogger]



Pl. 1.4 *Litoria infrafrenata* (Hylidae): a species that frequents houses; found along the coast of Cape York.
[H. Cogger]



Pl. 1.5 *Litoria watjulumensis* (Hylidae): a ground dwelling species of northern Australia.
[J. Wombey]



Pl. 1.6 *Cyclorana novaehollandiae* (Hylidae): a burrowing species present in a wide range of habitats in Queensland and New South Wales.
[J. Wombey]



Pl. 1.7 *Nyctimystes dayi* (Hylidae): a large-eyed, arboreal species endemic to the wet tropics of northern Queensland. [J. Wombey]



Pl. 2.1 *Myobatrachus gouldii* (Myobatrachidae): burrows head first into the soil, and feeds on termites; occurs in Houtman Abrolhos and south-western Australia.
[J. Wombey]



Pl. 2.3 *Adelotus brevis* (Myobatrachidae): lives under stones and logs along the coast and in mountain ranges from New South Wales to central Queensland (see also Pl. 2.4). [H. Cogger]



Pl. 2.4 *Adelotus brevis* (Myobatrachidae): the cryptic colouration of the dorsal surface of this species belies the brilliance of colour beneath (see also Pl. 2.3).
[J. Wombey]



Pl. 2.5 *Pseudophryne corroborree* (Myobatrachidae): inhabitant of alpine, grassy marshes and along forest streams, breeding in sphagnum bogs; Mt Kosciusko to the Brindabella Ranges, south-eastern Australia.
[H. Cogger]



Pl. 2.6 *Limnodynastes lignarius* (Myobatrachidae): the large tympanum over the ear cavity is distinctive; this species lives among rocks and in boulder fields near water; Kimberleys to Arnhem Land. [H. Cogger]



Pl. 2.7 *Rheobatrachus silus* (Myobatrachidae): a fully aquatic species, with eyes high on the head; mainly nocturnal; found only in the Blackall and Conondale ranges, south-eastern Queensland.

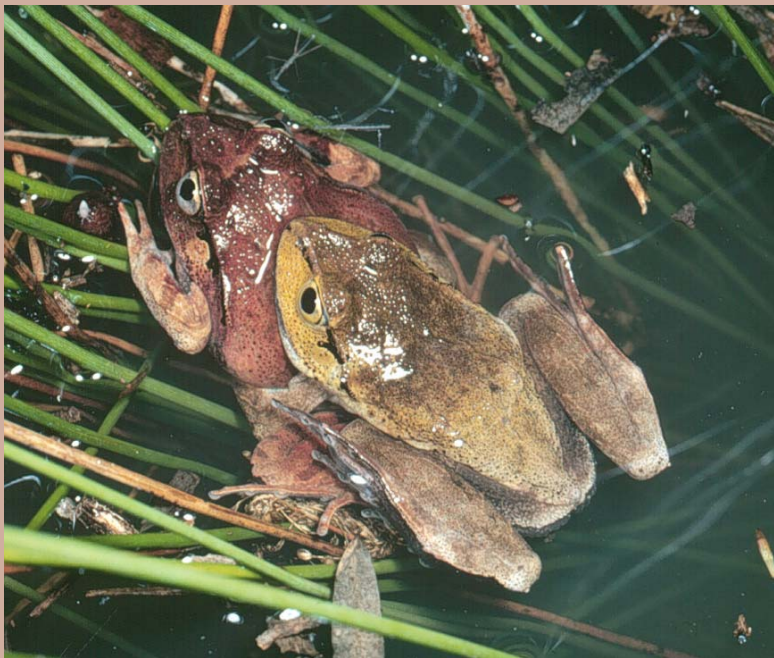
[H. Cogger]



Pl. 2.8 *Heleioporus albopunctatus* (Myobatrachidae): a burrowing frog which breeds in ephemeral waters; coast and ranges of south-western Australia. [J. Wombey]



Pl. 2.9 *Taudactylus acutirostris* (Myobatrachidae): a ground-dweller near mountain streams; endemic to the wet tropics.
[H. Cogger]



Pl. 2.10 *Lechriodus fletcheri*, (Myobatrachidae): a ground dwelling frog of wet forests along the eastern Australian coast.
[H. Cogger]



Pl. 2.11 *Philoria sphagnicolus* (Myobatrachidae): inhabits wet mountain forests in north-eastern New South Wales. [H. Cogger]



Pl. 2.12 *Notaden bennettii* (Myobatrachidae): a burrower in flood plains and woodland of central eastern Australia. [J. Wombey]



Pl. 2.13 *Limnodynastes convexiusculus* (Myobatrachidae): a ground dwelling frog of coastal savannah and shrub; Kimberleys to central Queensland.
[J. Wombey]



Pl. 3.1 *Caretta caretta* (Cheloniidae): the loggerhead turtle rarely breeds in Australia; occurs in tropical and warm temperate seas, along the entire northern Australian coast.
[H. Cogger]



Pl. 3.2 *Eretmochelys imbricata* (Cheloniidae): the hawksbill turtle is common on coral reefs; rarely breeds in Australia; tropical and warm temperate seas along northern Australian coast. [H. Cogger]



Pl. 3.4 *Natator depressus* (Cheloniidae): the flatback turtle is endemic to Australia where it nests on beaches of the north coast. [H. Cogger]



Pl. 3.5 *Chelonia mydas* (Cheloniidae): adult green turtles are mainly herbivorous; they are circumtropical, and common from Shark Bay to south-eastern Queensland.
[H. Cogger]



Pl. 3.6 *Lepidochelys olivacea* (Cheloniidae): the olive ridley turtle nests in western Arnhem Land; it is common along north coast and northern Cape York. [I. Morris]



Pl. 2.7 *Dermochelys coriacea* (Dermochelyidae): the leatherback turtle, shown stranded on the shore after capture in a fishing net, a form of mortality that is increasing; these turtles rarely breed in Australia.

[H. Cogger]



Pl. 3.9 *Carettochelys insculpta* (Carettochelyidae): the pig-nosed turtle has a fleshy proboscis and large flippers, unlike other Australian freshwater turtles; it nests in sandbanks of rivers, northern Australia.

[J. Cann]



Pl. 3.10 A Western Australian *Emydura* species. [J. Cann]



Pl. 3.11 *Chelodina longicollis* (Chelidae): showing characteristic, elongate neck; carnivorous; in wetlands of eastern Australia. [J. Cann]



Pl. 3.12 *Rheodytes leukops* (Chelidae): occurs in fast flowing waters of the Fitzroy River system, eastern Queensland. [J. Cann]



Pl. 3.13 *Pseudemydura umbrina* (Chelidae): Australia's most endangered reptile; one or two ponds in Western Australia; head covered with solid shield.
[J. Cann]



Pl. 3.14 *Pseudemydura umbrina* (Chelidae): Australia's most endangered reptile; one or two ponds in Western Australia; head covered with solid shield.
[J. Cann]



Pl. 3.15 *Elseya dentata* (Chelidae): lives in large rivers and lagoons of northern Australia.
[J. Cann]



Pl. 4.1 *Nephrorus wheeleri* (Gekkonidae): in this genus, the tail ends in a rounded sensory knob; these geckos are found among shrub and in stone fields in the arid central west. [G. Shea]



Pl. 4.2 *Nactus eboracensis* (Gekkonidae): usually found under ground debris in forests and woodlands of Cape York. [H. Cogger]



Pl. 4.3 *Pseudothecadactylus lindneri* (Gekkonidae): inhabits sandstone caves or crevices in far north-western Australia. [J. Wombey]



Pl. 4.4 *Oedura castelnaui* (Gekkonidae): a gecko with a moderately depressed tail; lives arboreally under bark and debris, Cape York.

[H. Cogger]



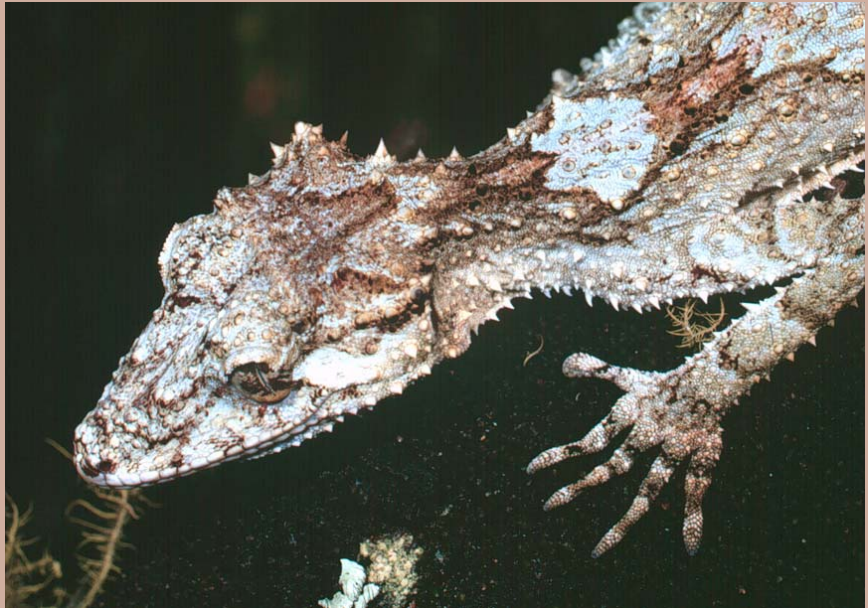
Pl. 4.5 *Strophurus ciliaris* (Gekkonidae): ranges from coastal forests of north-western Australia to the arid interior. [H. Cogger]



Pl. 4.6 *Gehyra pilbara* (Gekkonidae): hides during the day in the crevices and tunnels of termite mounds in north-western Australia. [J. Wombey]



Pl. 4.7 *Saltuarius cornutus* (Gekkonidae): has a strongly flattened leaf-like tail which assists to camouflage the lizard against an appropriate background (see also Pl. 4.8).
[H. Cogger]



Pl. 4.8 *Saltuarius cornutus* (Gekkonidae): spines and other skin structures also assist in camouflage (see also Pl. 4.7); the species is found in wet forests from Cape York to the central east coast. [H. Cogger]



Pl. 4.9 *Delma butleri* (Pygopodidae): is legless; it inhabits ***Triodia*** clumps in semi-arid and arid habitats in southern Australia; the pale yellow of the belly can brighten rapidly, perhaps in response to stress. [G. Shea]



Pl. 4.10 *Lialis burtonis* (Pygopodidae); is found throughout Australia except in the extreme south-west and south-east; highly variable in colour and pattern; inhabits low vegetation and ground litter; feeds mainly on small lizards. [J. Wombey]



Pl. 4.11 *Aprasia parapulchella* (Pygopodidae): a little known species found near Canberra and parts of the Riverina, New South Wales.

[J. Wombey]



Pl. 4.12 *Pygopus nigriceps* (Pygopodidae): showing characteristic black head bands; a nocturnal insectivore found throughout Australia, except along the wetter south and south-east coasts and ranges. [H. Cogger]



Pl. 5.1 *Tympanocryptis cephalus* (Agamidae): its cryptic colour matches its surroundings in a range of arid central and western Australian habitats. [H. Cogger]



Pl. 5.2 *Lophognathus longirostris* (Agamidae): lives in shrub and on the ground along streams in arid central and western Australia. [J. Wombey]



Pl. 5.3 *Physignathus lesueurii* (Agamidae): an omnivorous, arboreal water dragon common along creeks and rivers of the east coast.

[H. Cogger]



Pl. 5.4 *Ctenophorus pictus* (Agamidae): a swift inhabitant of sandy soils in drier parts of southern Australia. [H. Cogger]



Pl. 5.5 *Diporiphora* sp. (Agamidae): a member of the most slender Australian agamid genus, from the Edward River, north Queensland. [J. Wombey]



Pl. 5.6 *Moloch horridus* (Agamidae): a distinctive, well-camouflaged, slow moving species; occurs in central and western Australian deserts, where it feeds on ants. [H. Cogger]



Pl. 5.7 *Hypsilurus boydii* (Agamidae): a forest dragon with distinctive head ornamentation, endemic to the wet tropics, northern Queensland.

[H. Cogger]



Pl. 5.8 *Pogona barbata* (Agamidae): a semi-arboreal species, showing its defensive display; commonly found in south-eastern and eastern Australia. [J. Wombey]



Pl. 5.9 *Chlamydosaurus kingii* (Agamidae): the frill-necked lizard, in upright defensive posture with raised frill and open mouth; occurs in dry forests in the north and north-east.
[H. Cogger]



Pl. 5.10 *Varanus gouldii* (Varanidae): Gould's goanna lives in the arid interior; an active forager, it is one of the largest Australian goannas, growing to 1.6 m overall; common throughout the mainland except in the wettest parts; also on Lizard Island. [J. Wombey]



Pl. 5.11 *Varanus rosenbergi* (Varanidae): inhabits far South-western and southern Australia; attains about 1 m in length. [R. Kuiter]



Pl. 5.12 *Varanus tristis* (Varanidae): is arboreal or inhabits crevices in rocky hills along the coast and in the arid interior of northern and central Australia; it grows to 0.8 m in length. [G. Shea]



Pl. 5.13 *Varanus brevicauda* (Varanidae): the smallest member of the family in Australia, inhabits sandy deserts with spinifex grass in central and western areas of Australia. [J. Wombey]



Pl. 6.1 *Tiliqua rugosa* (Scincidae): very common and easily recognisable by its short, rounded tail and large, coarse scales; dry habitats in southern and eastern Australia. [H. Cogger]



Pl. 6.3 *Cyclodomorphus gerrardii* (Scincidae): a nocturnal insectivore, found mainly in wet temperate to tropical forests in eastern Australia.

[H. Cogger]



Pl. 6.4 *Tiliqua occipitalis* (Scincidae): found in a variety of dry habitats in southern Australia from New South Wales to the west coast.

[J. Wombey]



Pl. 6.5 *Egernia stokesii* (Scincidae): seen singly here, this species typically forms 'family' groups of all ages; among rocks and boulders in central and western Australia. [H. Cogger]



Pl. 6.6 *Gnypetoscincus queenslandiae* (Scincidae): a nocturnal species that hides under rotting logs during the day; endemic to the wet tropics. [H. Cogger]

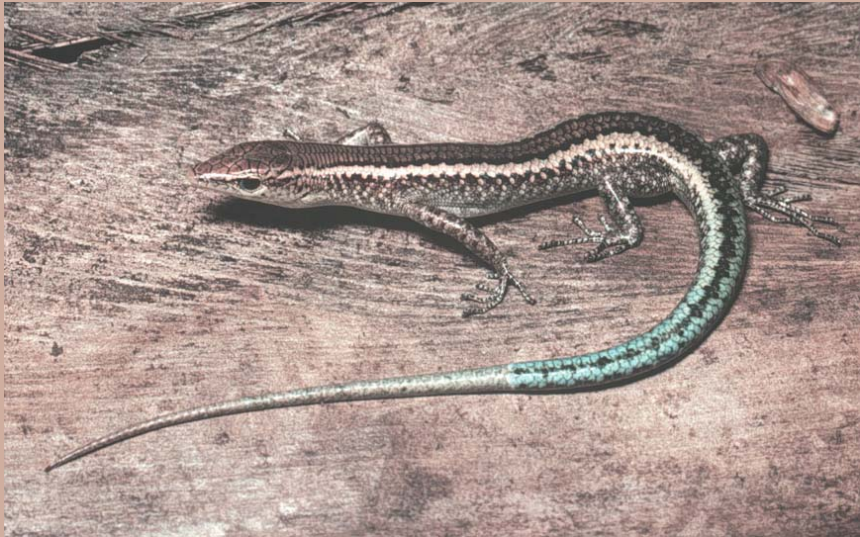


Pl. 6.7 *Carlia rhomboidalis* (Scincidae): occurs in rainforest, stream margins and in similar moist habitats in north-eastern Queensland.

[J. Wombey]



Pl. 6.8 *Glaphyromorphus nigricaudis* (Scincidae): a nocturnal species, found in coastal dunes to marginal rainforest in Cape York and Torres Strait Islands. [H. Cogger]



Pl. 6.9 *Cryptoblepharus egeriae* (Scincidae): an arboreal species that forages in the ground litter; endemic to Christmas Island, Indian Ocean.
[H. Cogger]



Pl. 6.10 *Morethia ruficauda* (Scincidae): uses its bright tail to distract predators; found in dry to arid areas near streams and water-holes in central and north-western Australia.
[H. Cogger]



Pl. 6.11 *Ctenotus taeniolatus* (Scincidae): an eastern Australian species ranging from coastal heathland to montane forests. [J. Wombey]



Pl. 6.12 *Lerista punctatovittata* (Scincidae): lacks forelimbs and has reduced hindlimbs; burrows in dry, open forests, inland south-eastern Australia. [H. Cogger]



Pl. 6.13 *Anomalopus verreauxi* (Scincidae): the paler of two colour morphs; a species with strongly reduced forelimbs and tiny, styliform hindlimbs; found in humid coastal and montane habitats, central east coast. [J. Wombey]



Pl. 7.1 *Ramphotyphlops australis* (Typhlopidae): a small, worm-like, burrowing snake; small, black spots indicate the eyes in these blind snakes; found in the drier parts of southern Australia. [H. Cogger]



Pl. 7.2 *Aspidites ramsayi* (Boidae): a nocturnal, terrestrial snake, often found sheltering in hollow logs or thick vegetation; occurs in dry areas and deserts across central Australia.
[J. Wombey]



Pl. 7.3 *Morelia viridis* (Boidae): juveniles are often yellow, and coil in the manner shown; (see also Pl. 7.4). [H. Cogger]



Pl. 7.4 *Morelia viridis* (Boidae): adults of this species are bright green (see also Pl. 7.3); a nocturnal, arboreal python of the rainforests, north-eastern Cape York. [H. Cogger]



Pl. 7.5 *Antaresia stimsoni* (Boidae): found frequently near rock outcrops, in stone fields, around large trees or other isolated features in sandy deserts; throughout arid central and western parts of Australia.

[H. Cogger]



Pl. 7.6 *Acrochordus arafurae* (Acrochordidae): an entirely aquatic snake that feeds almost exclusively on fishes; occurs in coastal streams and lagoons in northern Australia; (see also Pl. 7.6b). [H. Cogger]



Pl. 7.6b *Acrochordus arafurae* (Acrochordidae): the head and neck of a file snake, showing the small, pointed scales characteristic of this group; (see also Pl. 7.6). [H. Cogger]



Pl. 7.7 *Aipysurus laevis* (Hydrophiidae): is one of the most abundant sea snakes in coral reefs, feeding mainly on fishes; occurs from Shark Bay to the central east Australian coast; (see also Pl. 7.8). [H. Cogger]



Pl. 7.8 *Aipysurus laevis* (Hydrophiidae): like other members of the family, this species closes the nostrils when submerged. [R. Kuiter]



Pl. 7.9 *Astrotia stokesii* (Hydrophiidae): submerged, showing broadly flattened tail and keel-like ventral surface used in swimming; occurs from Shark Bay to the central east Australian coast; (see also Pl. 7.10).

[R. Kuiter]



Pl. 7.10 *Astrotia stokesii* (Hydrophiidae): the closed nostrils are placed dorsally, enabling these snakes to minimise exposure at the surface to aerial predators; (see also Pl. 7.9). [H. Cogger]



Pl. 7.11 *Laticauda colubrina* (Laticaudidae): swimming in tropical coral reef, where it feeds on moray eels; infrequently recorded from north-eastern Australia; (see also Pl. 7.12). [R. Kuiter]



Pl. 7.12 *Laticauda colubrina* (Laticaudidae): once or twice a year, these snakes come ashore to mate; eggs are left to hatch in rock crevices; (see also Pl. 7.11).
[J. Wombey]



Pl. 7.13 *Pelamis platurus* (Hydrophiidae): has a unique colour pattern; it is fully pelagic and feeds on fishes; found around Australia except along the south coast. [H. Cogger]



Pl. 8.1 *Boiga irregularis* (Colubridae): mainly arboreal in diverse habitats, from coastal heaths to rainforests in northern and eastern Australia.

[J. Wombey]



Pl. 8.2 *Myron richardsonii* (Colubridae): inhabits mangrove flats and tidal creeks along the central north coast of Australia. [G. Shea]



Pl. 8.3 *Fordonia leucobalia* (Colubridae): feeds on crabs and fishes on mudflats and among mangroves along the north coast to eastern Cape York.
[H. Cogger]



Pl. 8.4 *Vermicella annulata* (Elapidae): a burrower, feeds on blind snakes (Typhlopidae) in diverse habitats, from wet coastal forests to spinifex deserts; central and eastern Australia to central west coast.

[J. Wombey]



Pl. 8.5 *Antaioserpens warro* (Elapidae): a nocturnal burrower, inhabiting forests and woodland along the north-eastern coast and ranges of Queensland. [G. Shea]



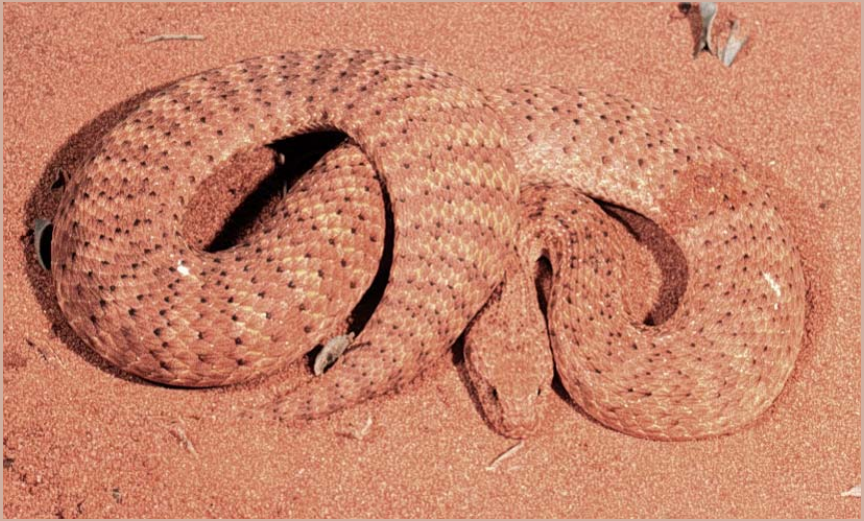
PI. 8.6 *Demansia psammophis* (Elapidae): found from coastal habitats to the arid interior, this species is widespread in mainland Australia except in the central north. [J. Wombey]



PI. 8.7 *Notechis scutatus* (Elapidae): occupies a wide range of habitats from rainforests to open woodlands and floodplains; its main food is frogs; found in south-eastern mainland Australia. [J. Wombey]



Pl. 8.8 *Pseudonaja guttata* (Elapidae): in aggressive posture; inhabits tussock grassland of interior north-eastern Australia. [H. Cogger]



Pl. 8.9 *Acanthophis pyrrhus* (Elapidae): occurs in desert regions and adjacent arid lands in central and western Australia. [H. Cogger]



Pl. 8.10 *Oxyuranus microlepidotus* (Elapidae): Australia's most venomous snake; it feeds mainly on rats and occurs on floodplains in the central east of the continent. [J. Wombey]



Pl. 8.11 *Furina diadema* (Elapidae): raises its characteristically coloured head high when alarmed; often associated with ants and termites in eastern Australia. [H. Cogger]



Pl. 8.12 *Suta suta* (Elapidae): in coil-spring offensive posture; found in sandy-stony deserts to savannah woodlands in central and eastern Australia. [H. Cogger]



Pl. 9.1 *Crocodylus porosus* (Crocodylidae): the salt water crocodile shows pronounced sexual dimorphism, as seen in this male (left) and female resting on the shore; this species occurs from the Kimberleys to the central east coast of Australia; (see also Pls. 9.2 & 9.3). [G. Grigg]



Pl. 9.2 *Crocodylus porosus* (Crocodylidae): when feeding in the water, this species lifts the tail to counter balance the head; (see also Pls. 9.1 & 9.3). [G. Grigg]



Pl. 9.3 *Crocodylus porosus* (Crocodylidae): the snout is broad and rounded, the teeth (well-worn in this old animal) are set in an irregular row, and a palatal flap closes the entrance to the throat; (see also Pls. 9.1 & 9.2). [G. Grigg]



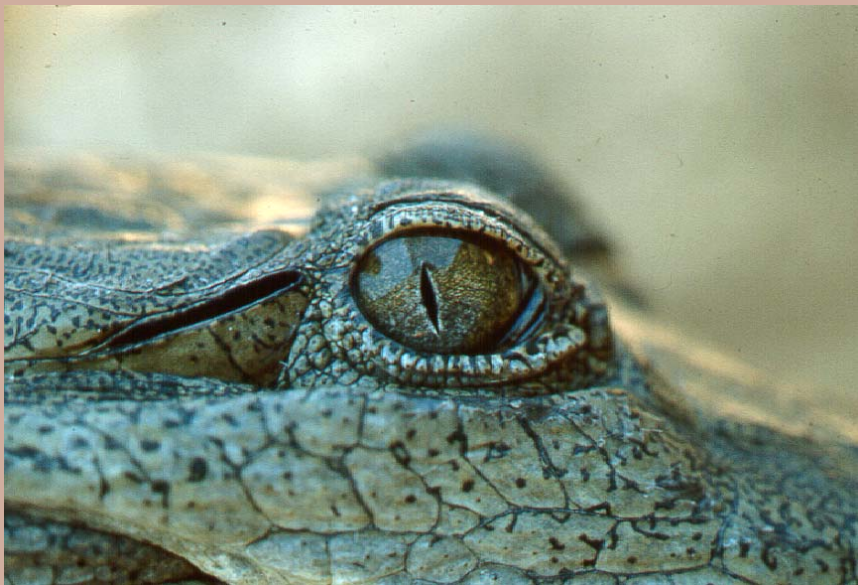
Pl. 9.4 *Crocodylus johnstoni* (Crocodylidae): the freshwater crocodile is found in rivers and billabongs from the Kimberleys to eastern Cape York; (see also Pls. 9.5–9.7).
[G.J.W. Webb]



Pl. 9.5 *Crocodylus johnstoni* (Crocodylidae): the freshwater crocodile increases its apparent size by inflating its body when in a threat display; (see also Pls. 9.4, 9.6 & 9.7). [G.J.W. Webb]



Pl. 9.6 *Crocodylus johnstoni* (Crocodylidae): the freshwater crocodile has a long, slender snout, with a regular row of nearly equal sized teeth; the eyes and slit-like ears, set high on the head, can be closed during diving; (see also Pls. 9.4, 9.5 & 9.7). [G.J.W. Webb]



Pl. 9.7 *Crocodylus johnstoni* (Crocodylidae): the eyes and the slit-like ears are set high on the head, and can be closed during diving; (see also Pls. 9.4–9.6).
[G. Grigg]

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