



Range of Horned Lizards

- Short-horned Lizard (Statewide)
- Texas Horned Lizard
- Roundtail Horned Lizard



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Here

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To become a volunteer observer for the Colorado Division of Wildlife, visit the Herpetofaunal Atlas at:
<http://ndis.nrel.colostate.edu/herpatlas/coherpatlas>

Reporting locations of horned lizards will help biologists better understand these fascinating animals in the state of Colorado.

For additional information, please contact:
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Keeping Colorado Wild

The Colorado Division of Wildlife is the state agency responsible for protecting and managing wildlife and its habitat, as well as providing wildlife-related recreation. The Division is funded by hunting and fishing license fees, federal grants and Colorado Lottery proceeds through Great Outdoors Colorado.

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COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
 6060 Broadway
 Denver, CO 80216



COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Guide to the Horned Lizards of Colorado



Short-horned Lizard
Texas Horned Lizard
Roundtail Horned Lizard

Short-horned Lizard
Phrynosoma hernandesi

COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
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Short-horned Lizard

Phrynosoma hernandesi



*Fringe...	Single row
Spines on Head...	Short spines, separated in middle back of head by a gap.
Tail...	Flattened in cross-section
Markings and Back Scales...	Varied, typically matching area soils. No stripe down the middle of back. Moderately enlarged scales on back, appearing rough.
**Adult SVL...	2.5 to 3.3 inches
Activity...	All three species can be found active from April through early October, depending on weather conditions. Horned lizards rely on their surroundings for regulation of their body temperature, therefore, daily activity is dependent upon surface air temperature. Horned lizards hibernate under ground during the colder months.
Reproduction...	
Diet...	
Habitat...	

Definitions

***Fringe**—The approximate midline between the back and stomach of the lizard, running laterally along the side of the lizard between front and hind legs.

****SVL**—Snout-to-Vent Length; measurement from the tip of the snout to the vent between the hind legs.



Texas Horned Lizard

Phrynosoma cornutum



*Fringe...	Two rows
Spines on Head...	Two long spines on back of head, one smaller spine above each eye.
Tail...	Flattened in cross-section
Markings and Back Scales...	Dark lines radiating from eyes backward and over top of head. White stripe down the middle of back. Greatly enlarged scales on back, appearing rough.
**Adult SVL...	2.7 to 4.5 inches
Reproduction...	Breeds in spring or early summer. Lays eggs that hatch in August or early September.
Diet...	Specialist; primarily feeds on harvester ants and other ant species.
Habitat...	Primarily shortgrass prairie. Occurs at elevations less than 6,000 feet in southeastern Colorado.

For more information on these and other species of horned lizards:

Hammerson, G. A. 1999. *Amphibians and Reptiles in Colorado*. 2nd ed. University Press of Colorado, Niwot, CO.

Sherbrooke, W. C. 2003. *Introduction to Horned Lizards of North America*. 2nd ed. University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles, CA.



Roundtail Horned Lizard

Phrynosoma modestum



*Fringe...	No fringe scales
Spines on Head...	Four pronounced spines of equal length on back of head, separated by equal spacing.
Tail...	Rounded
Markings and Back Scales...	Varied, typically matching area soils. No stripe down the middle of back. Dark spots between head and shoulders and hind legs and side; looks like a rock when motionless. Smooth scales on back relative to other species.
**Adult SVL...	1.6 to 2.8 inches
Reproduction...	Breeds in spring or early summer. Lays eggs that hatch in August or early September.
Diet...	Specialist; primarily feeds on harvester ants and other ant species.
Habitat...	Likely shortgrass prairie and open pinyon-juniper woodlands. Occurs at elevations less than 5,000 feet in southeastern Colorado. Little is known about the roundtail horned lizard in Colorado since there are few confirmed locations in the state.

KEY AND MAP ADAPTED FROM HAMMERSON 1999 AND SHERBROOKE 2003. HEAD SILHOUETTE ILLUSTRATIONS FROM SHERBROOKE 2003.