

Retro Slider



Retro slider habitat © Alison Goodland

Description

The retro slider, also known as Allan's lerista, is a moderately robust burrowing skink with no forelimbs and only one digit on the hindlimbs. Its general appearance is grey or grey-brown above with a dark spot on each dorsal and lateral scale and dark-edged ventral scales, particularly under the tail. The retro slider's lower eyelid is moveable.

Distribution

The retro slider occurs exclusively in the Brigalow Belt bioregion. It is only known from the undulating black soil plains at Clermont, Logan Downs Station and Retro Station.

Habitat

The retro slider is suspected to favour the root systems of grass tussocks growing in grasslands on black soil downs surrounded by scattered gums and groves of tea trees or bottle trees.

Ecology and Life Cycle

Very little is known about the life history and ecology of this species. The species has been found under rocks and logs in open woodland.

The retro slider has not been seen since 1960. However surveys have been undertaken during sub-optimal seasonal conditions, so there is still hope of finding this species again.

Key Threats

Loss of habitat due to clearing and thinning: Virtually all of the retro slider's preferred habitat has been cultivated and no longer supports natural vegetation. Small, disturbed or highly modified grasslands occur on road verges and other public lands.

Scientific Name:

Lerista allanae

Conservation Status

Critically Endangered
- IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (International)

Endangered -
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (National)



Did You Know?

There have been no recent sightings of this endangered species and searches for the retro slider over recent years have failed to locate specimens.

Thirteen museum specimens comprise the total knowledge base of the retro slider. All 13 individuals were collected in three locations (Retro, Logan Downs and Clermont) in close proximity to one another, between 1929 and 1960.



Retro slider © Steve Wilson



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How to help

- Keep an eye out for the species and report any potential sightings to WWF-Australia, the Queensland Museum or the EPA/QPWS. Taking a photo of live or dead specimens is useful to help identification.
- Continue organised searches for the species in suitable habitat.
- Avoid disturbing remnant strips or patches of native grassland or woodland.
- Maintain large, healthy, connected patches of native vegetation.
- Retain fallen timber and ground cover as these provide essential habitat.
- Ensure grazing practices are sustainable, maintaining good ground cover and soil structure.
- If burning, use cool burns in a mosaic pattern that promotes patchiness and leaves areas of ground cover unburnt.
- Consider entering into a conservation agreement (e.g. Land for Wildlife, Nature Refuges or incentive agreements through grant programs) for conservation and land management assistance.

To find out more about saving threatened species check out www.wwf.org.au/tsn or contact the Threatened Species Network at tsn@wwf.org.au.



The Threatened Species Network is a community-based program of the Australian Government and WWF-Australia.



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