

## **Killer Files: Yellow-Spotted Lizard**

Yellow-spotted lizards are reptilian beasts and are one of the deadliest creatures on our planet. Dreaded by many, the yellow-spotted lizard is sure to ignite fear into any child's mind.

### **Amazing Appearance**

Unsurprisingly, the yellow-spotted lizard lives up to its name as it boasts vibrant, bright yellow spots across its entire body. These spots serve an important purpose to this vile brute, as it warns other predators, no creature alive would dare challenge it. Its final warning signal is showcased in an array of jet-black spikes protruding from its repulsively cobbled throat: this warning signal means, step back otherwise you will be my lunch! The scaled reptile can grow up to 60cm long (24 inches) and can weight up to 700g, that's 1.54lbs!



Yellow-spotted lizard boasting its yellow spots.

### **Hospitable Habitat**

Reaching nearly 49C (120F), the yellow-spotted lizard's home is almost unbearable for any other creature to survive. California is its home, where the largest number of wild sightings have been recorded, this figure (2,500) was recorded at the juvenile detention centre: Camp Green Lake. Yellow-spotted lizards are mainly terrestrial beings, which means they live on land, but do often like to hide in deep, dark holes. According to researchers, yellow-spotted lizards have increased in popularity rapidly over the years due to the large number of holes dug at Camp Green Lake as part of their rehabilitation project.

### **Food and how they find it**

Yellow-spotted lizards are incredibly venomous creatures. One drop of their venom in your blood stream and you will die. Always. Regardless of this, the lizard's diet does not consist of humans as they gladly feast mainly on small mammals such as mice and rodents and love to tuck into animal eggs. Having said this, if a yellow-spotted lizard is at the brink of starvation they would not think twice about gobbling up their own kind – making them one of the only lizards that have cannibalistic tendencies.

Impressively, they catch their prey by using its extremely acute sense of smell to locate their prey (especially eggs). Its sense of smell is so keen, it can locate and dig up platypus eggs buried 15cm (6 inches) deep. Prey may be crushed to death if large or eaten alive if small and swallowed head first! Yellow-spotted lizards can use their agility to climb trees and cacti in search for their next victims.

**Did you know?**

Yellow-spotted lizards have reportedly killed over 5 boys at Camp Green Lake as there is still no known repellent for the deadly bullies.



A yellow-spotted lizard tormenting a delinquent at Camp Green Lake.

**Life (and birth)**

A courtship ritual occurs with yellow-spotted lizards, where the male starts bobbing his head, waving his arms, and stomping his feet in front of the female. This ritual – although bizarre – can result in the laying of up to 14 eggs at one time if successful.

Once reaching adulthood, these vicious tyrants can often be seen wrestling for one another to distinguish the alpha-male. Many die from these battles.

Yellow-spotted lizards can live up to 12-15 years old, provided they are killed in battle or shot with a pistol.

**Fun Fact!**

Their venom has been used as medicine to treat those with scarlet fever.