



biodiversity fact sheet

## ▶▶▶ Home amongst the black soils



**Above:** the endangered Grassland Earless Dragon (*Tympanocryptis pinguicolla*).  
Photo: Carley Starr

The Grassland Earless Dragon is a small, squat lizard, with a round head, short tail and a scale covering their ears, making them appear 'earless'. They can camouflage well, changing their colour to suit their surroundings and light conditions.

About 12 centimetres long, they need to be able to hide from predators such as Brown Falcons, kookaburras, eastern brown snakes, and feral cats and foxes. If threatened, they run and crouch, and hide at the base of grass tussocks or dive down soil cracks.

The Grassland Earless Dragon can vocalise with a high pitched hiss as a juvenile, and adults with a high pitched squeak from an open mouth. They are diurnal, found most active during the day rather than the night. Their young appear in summer to autumn and are dark slaty black in colour, before turning the cream, brown and black marbled markings of adults.

### Under Threat

In Queensland this extremely endangered lizard only occurs in a small area of the Darling Downs, disjunct from any other possibly related populations. Found on deep cracking clay grassland floodplains, the Grassland Earless Dragon appears to be adapting and utilising their strip cropping and grassland environment.



However, the lizard's small population size and restricted distribution, along with threats from further grassland habitat clearance, predation, land practice change, pesticide use and over grazing, make the Grassland Earless Dragon particularly vulnerable to extinction.

Further understanding and protection of this species is vital. If you have seen a Grassland Earless Dragon on your property or would like more information, please call QMDC on 07 4637 6201.



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For further information, contact QMDC on (07) 4637 6201 or visit [www.qmdc.org.au](http://www.qmdc.org.au)

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