



Short-horned Lizard

Phrynosoma douglassi

-Short-horned lizards are the most widely distributed of the horned lizards and can be found from Canada south into Mexico.

-Although they are often referred to as horny toads, they are, in fact, lizards.

-Their main food is ants but they will also eat other small insects.

-Horned lizards do not stalk their prey but instead rely on patient waiting, striking out when their prey approaches too closely.

-Horned lizards have many enemies including coyote, hawks, snakes, and people.

-Populations of wild horned lizards are declining due to destruction of habitat, reduction of prey (pesticide use to kill ants), and collection as pets.

-When threatened a horned lizard will flatten itself out and/or inflate itself to almost twice its normal size. If this is ineffective, the horned lizard may resort to squirting blood from its eyes. The color of their orange-yellow throats will increase in intensity as a warning to predators.



-Short-horned lizards come in a variety of colors that form a mosaic of color on the lizard's back and make it resemble the local landscape. A horned lizard best trick is its ability to blend in and become invisible to both predator and prey.

-Short-horned lizards give birth to live babies that begin to live independently shortly after birth.