

Texas Spiny Lizard

Sceloporus olivaceus



ANIMAL CHARACTERISTICS

Appearance: Texas spiny lizards are small, typically gray lizards with black, white, or red-brown blotches running down their backs. They have spiny-textured scales, long toes, and sharp claws. Their size ranges from 8 to 11 inches, similar to an average-sized banana to a letter-sized paper.

Habitat: Their preferred habitat are trees, over areas with significant amount of ground leaf litter.

Diet: Texas spiny lizards are carnivores, preying on various insects like beetles, wasps, grasshoppers, and others.

RANGE

Texas spiny lizards are found in the states of Texas, Arizona, and Oklahoma, and northeastern Mexico.

WHERE DO I LIVE IN THE ELM FORK NATURE PRESERVE?

You can find me on the bark of trees in the preserve. I might also be on logs or stumps. I'm usually shy and nervous, so if you approach me, I'll often retreat up a tree or make a noisy escape through the leaf litter on the ground.

REPRODUCTION

Texas spiny lizards breed throughout the spring and summer months. Females may lay up to four clutches a year, with each clutch containing up to 20 eggs. These eggs are buried in the ground and covered with soil. After approximately 60 days, the eggs hatch, and the new lizards are independent from the start.

