Plestiodon (=Eumeces) fasciatus
Family Scincidae

Living specimens:
- Five distinct longitudinal light lines on dorsum
- Juveniles have bright blue tail
- Head of male reddish during breeding season
- Old adult males olive brown and lack light lines

Habitat:
wooded, fairly most habitats under stones, logs and leaf litter.

Insectivorous:
vision + olfaction to identify prey.

Clutch size:
2-18 eggs. (brooded for the female 4-8 weeks).


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Sceloporus undulatus
Family Phrynosomatidae

Morphological characteristics:
- Rough, keeled scales
- Long toes with well-developed claws
- No transverse gular fold

Habitat:
dry, open woodlands, basking in logs or tree trunks. Western species inhabit from dry deserts to scrub land, open woodlands, dry mountain areas.

Insectivorous: visually oriented

Clutch size: 4-7 eggs in sandy soil. No parental care. Several western species are viviparous.

Uma sp.
Family Phrynosomatidae

Morphological characteristics:

- Scales finely granular, almost velvety texture on dorsum
- Toes with lateral fringes of elongated, pointed scales
- Snout shovel-shaped
- Body and tail are flat.

Habitat:

Deserts of the Southwestern US and Mexico. Specialized for life in sand dunes. Special structures in the nostrils to prevent sand from entering.

Territorial

Insectivorous

Oviparous

Uta stansburiana
Family Phrynosomatidae

Morphological characteristics:

- Small species with overlapping dorsal scales.
- Have distinct gular fold.
- Males have a conspicuous dark patch behind each front leg

Habitat:

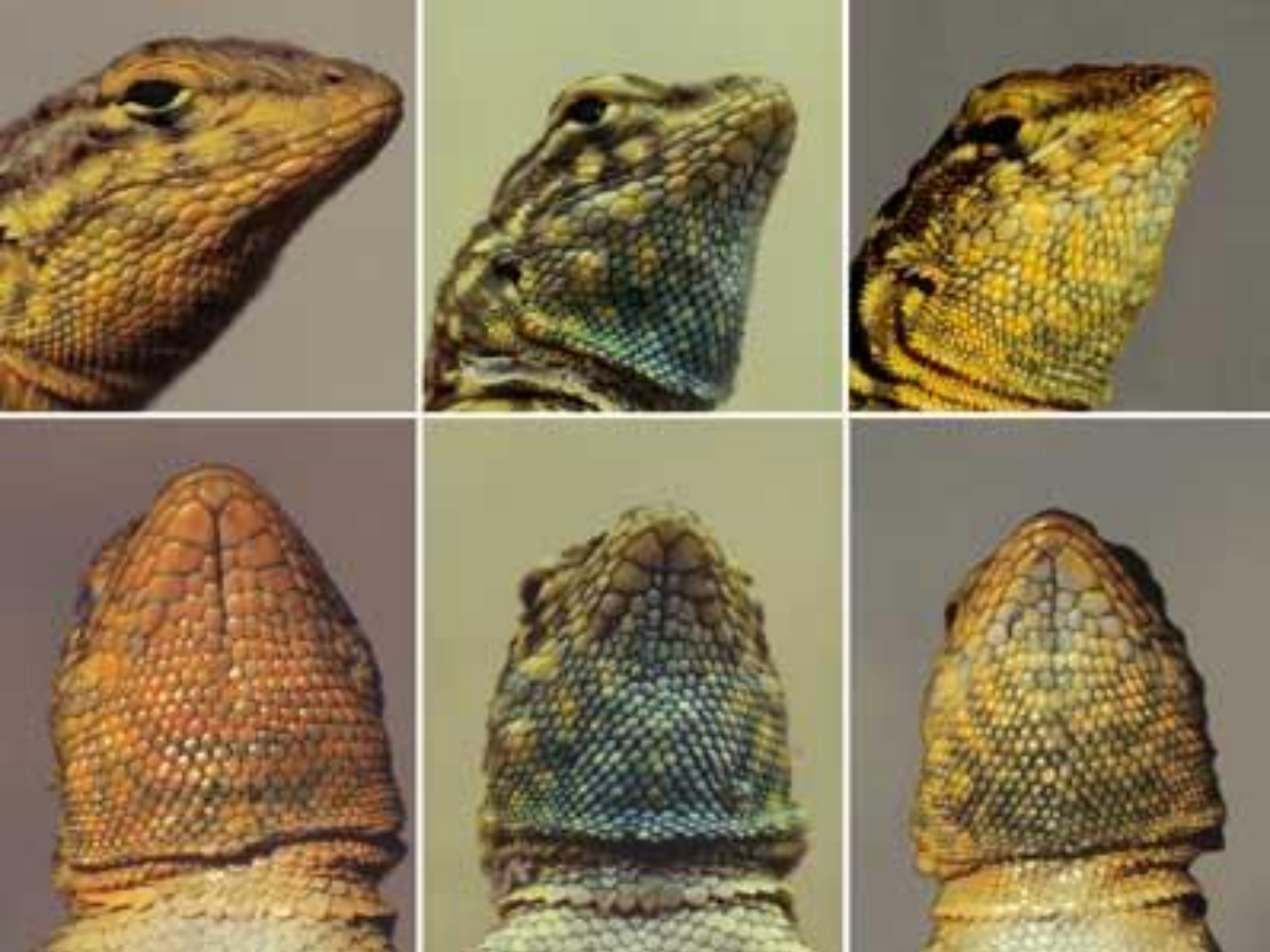
Arid and semi-arid open areas (sandy, rocky or gravelly).

Highly territorial

Sit-and-wait insectivorous

Clutch size:

Small and is laid in the mid summer.



Crotaphytus collaris
Family Crotaphytidae

Morphological characteristics:

- Tail rounded and very long, hind legs are much large than the front legs.
- Neck has a conspicuous black collar consisting of two bands, anterior one broken in the middle.

Habitat: California to Missisipi River, rocky mountains, hill in arid semi-arid areas.

Leaps from boulder to boulder and bipedal (high speed).

Feeding: large arthropods, other lizards.

Oviparous


Photo © Willia

Phrynosoma sp.
Family Phrynosomatidae

Morphological characteristics:

- Squat, flattened body shape
- Dorsal scales small and granular.
- Head short and blunt, ornamented with group of bony, backward projecting horns

Habitat: sandy arid/semi-arid regions. Some live high in the mountains. Diurnal and heliothermic.

Terrestrial: specialized in ants.

Defenses: inflate the body, use the horns, spurting blood from the eye.

Most species are Oviparous, but some are Viviparous (at high elevations).

Dipsosaurus dorsalis
Family Iguanidae

Morphological characteristics:
- Stout with a long tail. Small and blunt head.
- Tail has a ring of dark dots.
- Scales on head small and uniform
- Rostral scale not divided

Habitat: California, southern Nevada, western Arizona and northern Mexico.

Active at very high temperatures

Omnivorous:
Mostly vegetation in the wild.

Oviparous:
Lays eggs in underground nests.

Sauromalus obesus
Family Iguanidae

Morphological characteristics:

- Large, robust with thick tail.
- Rostral scale divided
- Dorsal scales are flat and granular, scales on the sides of the neck and body are enlarged and pointed.
- Largest lizard in the Southwest US and Northern Mexico.

Habitat:

Rocky hills and mountains below 4000ft.

Basking stations on rocks, they're sluggish.

Herbivorous: cactus pads, fruits, flowers, leaves.

Oviparous

Anolis carolinensis
Family Polychrotidae

Morphological characteristics:

- Pointed snout, slender body, long and thin tail.
- Males have dewlap under chin

Habitat:

Florida to North Carolina. Coastal regions.

Arboreal:

Tree trunks, shrubs, fences.

Highly territorial

Insectivorous

Oviparous

Cnemidophorus sp.
Family Teiidae

Morphological characteristics:

- Slender bodies, long tails, narrow heads with pointed snouts
- Ventral scales in eight rows
- Most species have distinct longitudinal light stripes running length of body
- Widespread in western US
- They are very active, capable of running bipedally at high speeds.

Insectivorous:

Short, quick, jerky movements around the base of shrubs.

Triploid parthenogenetic species:

Hybrids between normal (2n) sexually reproducing species.
Females can develop fertile eggs w/o male sperm.
Females adopt the male role and go through courtship.