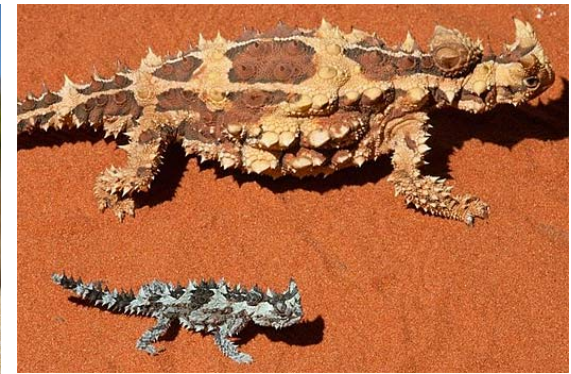




## Thorny Dragon

The **thorny dragon** or **thorny devil** (*Moloch horridus*) is an Australian lizard representative of the sole species of genus **Moloch**. The thorny dragon averages 20 cm in length, and can live between 15 and 20 years. Most of these lizards are tinged with **camouflaging shades** of desert browns and tans. These colours change from pale colours during warm weather to darker colours during cold weather. These animals are covered in **conical spines** that are mostly uncalcified. The thorny devil also features a spiny **false head** on the back of its neck, which the lizard presents to potential predators by dipping its real head. Unlike what happens in most species, the females are larger than the males.

The thorny dragon's **scales are ridged**, thus enabling the animal to collect water from any part of its body. That water is then conveyed to its mouth; accordingly, when they need to drink **water**, they just touch water with their limbs, and (on the basis of the **capillary principle**) water is transmitted to the mouth through their skin.



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