

The Species

Liolaemus gardeli is a sand lizard that was recently discovered by researchers from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil) and Universidad de la República (Uruguay). It is a small lizard that lives in a sandy area on the banks of the Tacuarembó River.

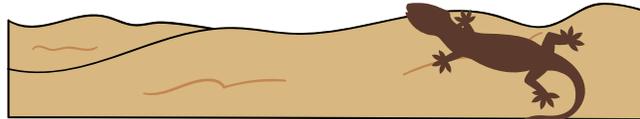


Natural History

Liolaemus gardeli is a species that has several adaptations to the sandy environment in which it lives. As a defense strategy, it is able to burrow easily into the sand, and can also use herbaceous vegetation or large armadillo burrows to hide and escape from potential predators.

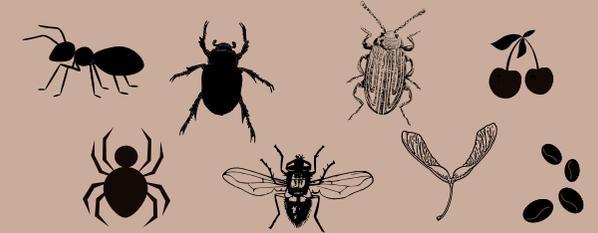
Distribution and Habitat

L. gardeli is a species with a very restricted geographical distribution. It is currently only known in Uruguay, with a population that occupies a small area of dunes on the banks of the Tacuarembó River. In this region, there is sparse psammophilous vegetation (adapted to the inhospitable sandy environment).



Diet

L. gardeli feeds mainly on arthropods and plant matter available in the patches of vegetation in the environment. It is an omnivorous lizard, preying on ants, spiders, beetles, flies and consuming leaves, fruit and seeds.



Etimology

The species was named after the famous Uruguayan tango composer Carlos Gardel. According to historical data, Gardel was born in the district of Tacuarembó, the same region where the new species was discovered.



Conservation



The species has **not yet been assessed** by the **IUCN** for its **risk of extinction**.

However, due to its **restricted distribution**, it may be classified as **Critically Endangered**

We must know to protect!

Species extinction risk analyses are complex and require a lot of information about the species' distribution, habitat and ecology. In order to collect this data, researchers need support from different spheres of society. Thus, by working together and with the efforts of the community, and the monitoring and promotion of environmental policies by public authorities, we will be able to unravel the mysteries of *L. gardeli* and protect it for future generations



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Photo Márcio Borges-Martins

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للمحافظة على الكائنات الحية

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Liolaemus gardeli