

It's a small (up to _____ in length), spiky lizard native to Australia. They live in the arid scrubland and desert of the interior of the continent. Thorny devils are the only species in the genus _____, and they can live between ____ and ____ years.

Thorny devils have a number of _____ against predators and specializations for living in the _____.

1. They are named after a human sacrifice god. The thorny devil's scientific name, _____, was inspired by John Milton's poem "Paradise Lost." In the poem, Milton

describes the god Moloch as a horrible king smeared with the blood of human sacrifice. The Latin word _____ can mean rough or _____, or dreadful.

2. They specialize in _____ ants. Thorny devils are what's known as myrmecophages: they eat only ants. They can eat _____ of small, black ants a day.

3. Thorny devils are covered in spikes. Their _____ and _____ are covered in densely-packed spikes, each no bigger than the thorns of a _____. These spikes are thought to make predators go away.

4. They can puff themselves up to

_____ bigger. Thorny devils have another defense mechanism in which they inflate their _____ with air to make themselves bigger and _____ for a predator to eat.

5. They have a funny walk. The thorny lizard walks slowly, stopping often, and rocking back and forth. This _____, _____ movement appears very deliberate. Their odd movements and frequent freezing in place helps _____ them if a predator spots them out in the open.

6. They deposit distinctive fecal pellets (_____!). Thorny devil droppings are glossy, black spheres. They crumble easily to reveal the _____ of their ant prey.

Individual thorny devils tend to have specific poo sites away from their basking and feeding sites, and they may return to the same site for _____ days.

7. Thorny devils can change color. In warm weather, the lizards are usually pale _____ and red, but they can change rapidly to _____ colors in cold weather or when alarmed. They undergo this color change daily as the sun rises and they become more active. In the cool morning, thorny lizards are _____ and get lighter as the temperature climbs.

8. Thorny devils don't like extreme hot or cold. Thorny devils have a _____ pattern of activity. They are almost completely inactive during the hottest summer months and the coldest winter months, when they take refuge in _____ burrows. Thorny devils are active in the fall as well as the later winter through early _____, during which they mate and lay eggs.

9. Thorny devils have a “_____” on their shoulders. Thorny devils have a strange part on the backs of their necks, which is sometimes called a false head.

When _____, the lizard can tuck its real head down between its

forelegs, leaving the _____ head
where its real head used to be.

10. They concentrate and drink____. Not only does their spiny armor protect them from predators, it also helps them absorb water in their habitat. There are moisture-attracting grooves between their thorns. They obtain water from the dew that condenses on their bodies overnight, during rare rainfalls, or by _____up against dew-coated grass. Any water that gets into the _____between its thorns is drawn to its mouth,allowing the thorny dragon to drink water from all over its body.

Thank Jesus