

**CALIFORNIA HORNED LIZARD
(PHRYNOSOMA CORONATUM FRONTALE)**



Description

Horned lizards are readily recognized by their prominent head spines, broad flat bodies, and spiny skins. The California horned lizard is 2.5 to 4 inches (63 to 100 mm) in length, from snout to vent. General coloration may be

yellowish, brown, reddish, or gray - usually closely matching soil color.

Like other horned lizards, this species eats large quantities of ants. Small beetles or other insects may also be eaten when abundant.

California horned lizards are active mostly during the middle of the day in spring and fall, but are restricted to mornings and late afternoons during the hottest part of the summer. Periods of inactivity and winter hibernation are spent burrowed into the soil under object such as rocks or logs, in mammals burrows, or in crevices.

Habitat

California horned lizards can be found in a variety of habitats on the floor of the San Joaquin Valley, including grasslands and shrublands. They require warm, dry areas with patches of fine, loose soil or sand and with open spaces for sunning and foraging.

Range/distribution

California horned lizards occur in San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kings, and Kern counties.

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