

# TECHNICAL NOTES

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WYOMING

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Biology No. 401

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Subject: SAGEBRUSH LIZARD\*

## General

The sagebrush lizard (Sceloporus graciosus) inhabits areas of pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, and oak.

## Food Requirements

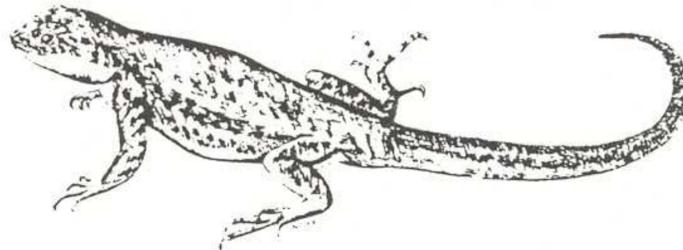
Sagebrush lizards are almost entirely insectivorous. They eat a variety of insects and forage widely for food. One study reported that the main food items are grasshoppers, ants, and both nymph and adult leaf hoppers. Other insects eaten include true bugs, beetles, caterpillars, flies, and various spiders and mites. Another study reported that up to 60 percent of the diet may be ants.

## Water Requirements

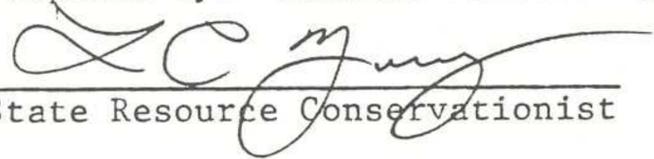
No specific water requirements were found in the literature.

## Cover Requirements

General cover requirements for the sagebrush lizard include areas with widely scattered bushes and fine, sandy soil. Adults prefer bushy areas, while young lizards may be more abundant in open grassy areas. Mammal burrows, mud cracks, logs, and culverts are used for escape cover. Sagebrush lizards apparently burrow into loose soil banks or utilize natural cavities or rodent burrows for hibernation.



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\*Information taken from Ecoregion M3113 Handbook and Habitat Suitability Index Models, Wildlife Species Narratives (literature searches), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, various dates between 1978-1985.

Reproductive Requirements

One study reported that female lizards lay eggs in a hole on a warm sunny slope. No further reproductive requirements were found in the literature.

Special Habitat Requirements

Sagebrush lizards prefer fine, gravelly, sandy, or alluvial soils.

Interspersion Requirements

Sagebrush lizards are typically found in well-lighted areas with fine, gravelly soil and widely scattered low bushes. Bare areas between bushes are used as runways during foraging. These lizards are found in areas of sagebrush, saltbush, rabbitbrush, greasewood, shadscale, pinyon, and juniper.