



**REPTILES** <http://www.peoriazoo.org/reptiles.html>

## Beaded Lizard

*Heloderma horridum*

**Peoria Zoo Exhibit** **Historic Entry Building**

<http://www.peoriazoo.org/exhibits.html>

**Habitat:** Tropical, dry forests. They can be found in dry open areas with abundant rocks and sparse vegetation.

**Range:** Mexico and Guatemala

**Activity Cycle:** Nocturnal— active at night

**Size:** Between 13-18 inches long and 5-6 pounds

**Social Structure:** Solitary  
Females lay 3-13 eggs in the sand and leave them. Hatchlings are able to survive without parental help.

**Distinguishing Features:** The head is broad and slightly flattened.  
Has a thick, elongated body, ending with a thick, rounded tail.

One of only 2 venomous lizards in the world.  
Bright orange and black stripes warn of poison.

**Diet:** Insects, spiders, small invertebrates, lizards, snakes, rodents, birds, eggs.

**Life Span:** 30-50 years

## Did you know?

**Beaded lizards' teeth in their lower jaw have grooves that contain poison. They must chew their victim to inject the poison.**