

**GROSS-OUT  
DEFENSES**

# **Bloody** **HORNED LIZARDS**



by  
**Lori Haskins Houran**

**[Intentionally Left Blank]**



# Bloody HORNED LIZARDS

by Lori Haskins Houran

Consultant: Gabrielle Sachs  
Zoo Educator

BEARPORT  
PUBLISHING

NEW YORK, NEW YORK



## Credits

Cover, © John Cancalosi/Alamy; TOC, © Rusty Dodson/Shutterstock; 4, © Ellen McKnight/Alamy; 5, © Raymond Mendez/Animals Animals-Earth Scenes; 6, © John Cancalosi/ardea.com; 7, © Wade C. Sherbrooke, Ph.D.; 8, © Raymond Mendez/Animals Animals-Earth Scenes; 9, © Wade C. Sherbrooke, Ph.D.; 10, © Wade C. Sherbrooke, Ph.D.; 11, © John A.L. Cooke/Animals Animals-Earth Scenes; 12, © Wade C. Sherbrooke, Ph.D.; 13, © John Cancalosi/Peter Arnold; 14, © Ralph A. Clevenger/Corbis; 15, © Barry Mansell/Minden Pictures; 16, © Wade C. Sherbrooke, Ph.D.; 17, © Joe McDonald/Tom Stack & Associates; 18, © Wade C. Sherbrooke, Ph.D.; 19, © Wade C. Sherbrooke, Ph.D.; 20, © Tom Grundy/Shutterstock; 21, © McDonald Wildlife Photography/Animals Animals-Earth Scenes; 22, © Dr. Morley Read/Photo Researchers, Inc.; 23TL, © Wade C. Sherbrooke, Ph.D.; 23TR, © Joe McDonald/Tom Stack & Associates; 23BL, © Wade C. Sherbrooke, Ph.D.; 23BR, © Wade C. Sherbrooke, Ph.D.

Publisher: Kenn Goin

Senior Editor: Lisa Wiseman

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Design: Becky Munich

Photo Researcher: Amy Dunleavy

## *Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

Haskins, Lori.

Bloody horned lizards / by Lori Haskins Houran.

p. cm. — (Gross-out defenses)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-1-59716-717-8 (library binding)

ISBN-10: 1-59716-717-7 (library binding)

1. Horned toads— Juvenile literature. 2. Animal defenses— Juvenile literature. I. Title.

QL666.L267H37 2009

597.95'4— dc22

2008016048

Copyright © 2009 Bearport Publishing Company, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission from the publisher.

For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 101 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6R, New York, New York 10003. Printed in the United States of America.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

# Contents

|                                 |    |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Surprise! . . . . .             | 4  |
| Unlucky Dogs . . . . .          | 6  |
| Good Shot . . . . .             | 8  |
| Lots of Tricks . . . . .        | 10 |
| Ouch! . . . . .                 | 12 |
| Revenge of the Ants . . . . .   | 14 |
| Hide and Seek . . . . .         | 16 |
| Digging In . . . . .            | 18 |
| Tiny But Tough . . . . .        | 20 |
| Another Gross Defense . . . . . | 22 |
| Glossary . . . . .              | 23 |
| Index . . . . .                 | 24 |
| Read More . . . . .             | 24 |
| Learn More Online . . . . .     | 24 |
| About the Author . . . . .      | 24 |



# Surprise!

Uh-oh! A horned lizard sees trouble.

A hungry coyote is coming near.

Closer, closer . . .

The lizard shuts its eyes tight, then—  
*squirt!*

It shoots blood out of its eyes, straight  
into the coyote's mouth!

The shocked coyote yelps and turns  
away.

The lizard is safe!



coyote

Shooting blood is a weird way to fight off **enemies**, but it works! Horned lizards spray the blood out of the corners of their eyes. If they need to, they can shoot over and over again.

shooting  
blood



# Unlucky Dogs

Horned lizards don't squirt blood at just anyone.

They save this trick for **canine** enemies, such as coyotes, foxes, wolves, and dogs.

The lizards' blood tastes horrible to these creatures, though it doesn't bother other kinds of animals at all.



The blood doesn't hurt the canines. It just grosses them out! After they're squirted, canines shake their heads and rub their faces in the grass, trying to get rid of the terrible taste.



**blood from a  
horned lizard**





## Index

- |                                       |                         |  |                        |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|------------------------|
| <b>ants</b> 14–15,                    | <b>camouflage</b> 16    | <b>enemies</b> 4–5, 6, 8, 10,<br>12–13, 14, 16, 22 | <b>scales</b> 12–13    |
| <b>babies</b> 18–19, 20               | <b>canines</b> 4, 6, 20 | <b>eyes</b> 4–5, 8                                 | <b>toads</b> 15        |
| <b>blood</b> 4–5, 6–7, 8–9,<br>10, 20 | <b>deserts</b> 16       | <b>food</b> 14–15                                  | <b>tongue</b> 15       |
| <b>burrows</b> 18–19                  | <b>eggs</b> 18–19       | <b>horns</b> 12–13                                 | <b>velvet worms</b> 22 |

## Read More

**Glaser, Jason.** *Horned Lizards*. Mankato, MN: Capstone Press (2006).

**Schaefer, Lola M.** *Horned Toads*. Chicago: Heinemann Library (2004).

**Trueit, Trudi Strain.** *Lizards*. New York: Children's Press (2003).

## Learn More Online

To learn more about horned lizards, visit  
**[www.bearportpublishing.com/GrossOutDefenses](http://www.bearportpublishing.com/GrossOutDefenses)**

## About the Author

Lori Haskins Houran has been writing and editing books since 1992. She lives in New York City.

**[Intentionally Left Blank]**





# Bloody HORNED LIZARDS

Watch out! Bloody horned lizards have a really gross way of staying safe. When in danger, they squirt blood from the corners of their eyes. The blood doesn't kill, but it sure tastes awful. Look inside to find many more fascinating facts about these bloody creatures!

**Bloody Horned Lizards**  
**Deadly Poison Dart Frogs**

**Disgusting Hagfish**  
**Prickly Porcupines**

**Smelly Skunks**  
**Tricky Opossums**

**BEARPORT**  
PUBLISHING

[www.bearportpublishing.com](http://www.bearportpublishing.com)

