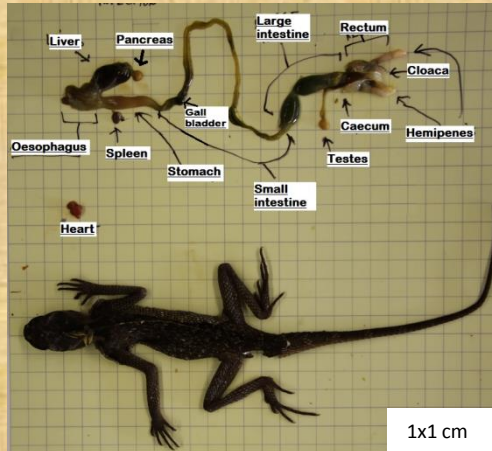


# Gastrointestinal tracts of reptiles

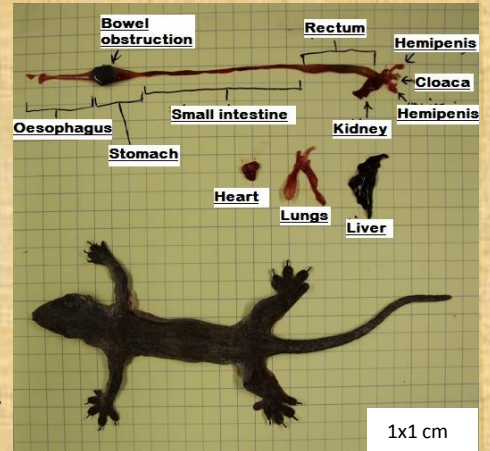
The distinct characteristics of the digestive system of several reptiles.

## *Acanthosaura crucigera*



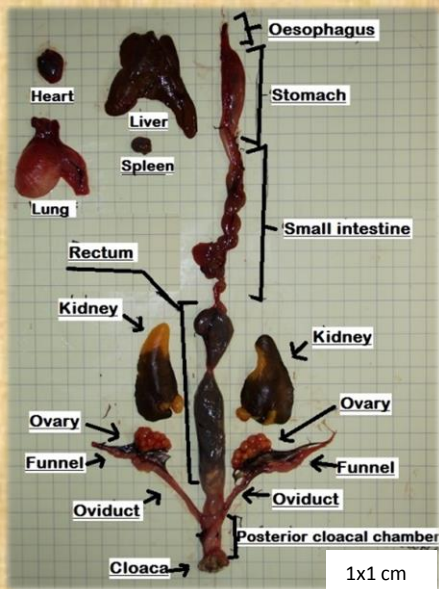
- Auto-enzymatic insectivore.
- Only eats live prey.
- Gut-load prey 24h – 36h prior to feeding.
- Feed on dish to avoid lethal intestinal impaction.
- Chitinous insects should be the bulk of the diet, mix with soft insects to add variety and provide enough nutrients and minerals.

## *Gehyra vorax*



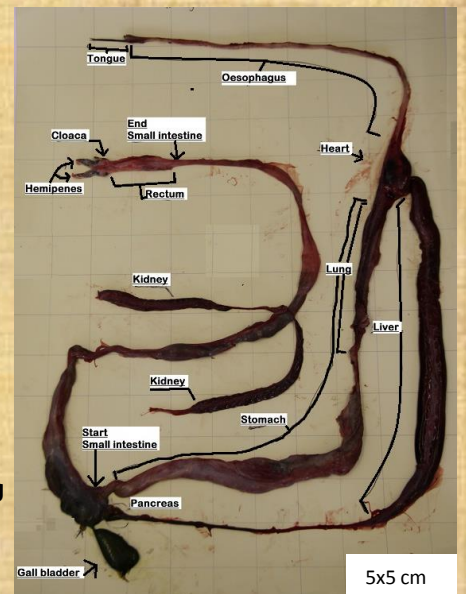
- Auto-enzymatic omnivore.
- Diet consists of a wide variety of insects, other lizards, fruits, vegetables and pollen.
- Gut-load prey items 24h prior to feeding.
- Feed on dish, do not use substrate that contains large chunks. Species is prone to lethal intestinal impaction. (see bowel obstruction on photo)

## *Pogona vitticeps*



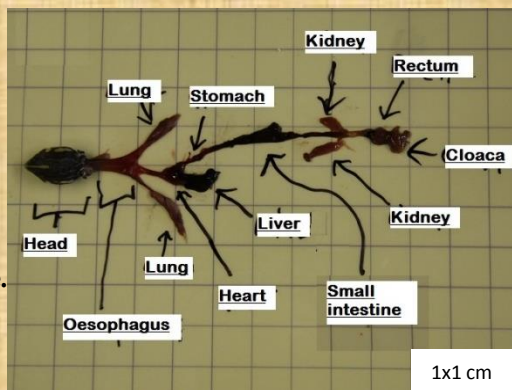
- Auto-enzymatic omnivore.
- Diet at < 1 year old: 70% insects, 30% plants.
- Diet at > 1 year old: 30% insects, 70% plants.
- Gut-load prey insects 24h prior to feeding.
- Prey items should fit between the eyes.

## *Boa constrictor*



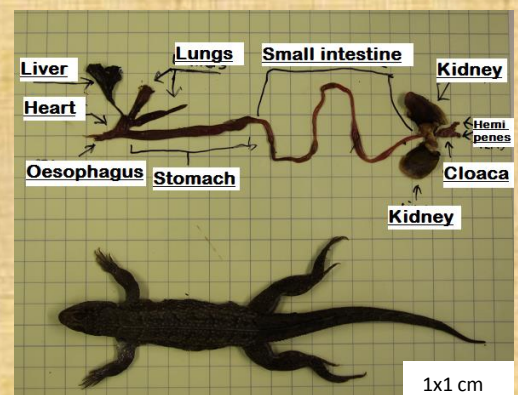
- Auto-enzymatic carnivore.
- Digestion takes 4-6 days.
- After eating it can take weeks or months before it eats again.
- Feed in different container.
- Do not handle 24h after eating or it might regurgitate.
- Prey should not be wider than the boa's midsection.

## *Trachemys scripta*



- Auto-enzymatic omnivore.
- Juveniles are mostly carnivorous.
- Adults are mostly herbivorous.
- Diet consists of a wide variety of insects, plants, crustaceans, gastropods and also opportunistically fish, amphibians or aquatic snakes.
- May also show necrophagous behaviour.

## *Leiocephalus schreibersi*



- Auto-enzymatic omnivore.
- Primarily insectivorous.
- Prefers chitinous prey.
- Prey items should not be bigger than half the width of the lizard's head.
- Feed on a dish to avoid substrate ingestion, species is susceptible to lethal intestinal impaction.

### Sources:

*A. crucigera* photo: [aquaportail.com](http://aquaportail.com)  
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*G. vorax* photo: [hippocampus-bildarchiv.de](http://hippocampus-bildarchiv.de)  
*G. vorax* text: [reptilescanada.com](http://reptilescanada.com)  
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*P. vitticeps* text: [beardeddragoncaresheet.weebly.com](http://beardeddragoncaresheet.weebly.com)

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*B. constrictor* text: [animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu](http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu)  
*T. scripta* photo: [animal.memozee.com](http://animal.memozee.com)  
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*L. schreibersi* text: [herptiles.consulnetjdm.dyndns.org](http://herptiles.consulnetjdm.dyndns.org)