



**A SIGNIFICANT RANGE EXTENSION FOR THE STRIPED LEGLESS
LIZARD *DELMA IMPAR* IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

Nathan Clout (1) & Scott Eipper (2)

(1) nathanjclout@gmail.com

(2) Scott_eipper@hotmail.com

The Striped Legless Lizard, *Delma impar* is a greyish green to light brown above with a number of longitudinal stripes, with the middle stripe being much thicker than the others. The ventral surface is usually cream to white in colour.

This terrestrial species is usually found in tussock grassland. Generally shelters in spider burrows at the base of the grass tussocks. They are occasionally found under logs and rocks and occasionally seen basking on the edges of the grass tussocks.

D. impar is listed nationally as Vulnerable (Wilson & Swan, 2013). This record of four individuals represents a significant range extension in this species.

An area of disturbed grassland, with exposed basalt rocks was entered to search for invertebrates beneath cover. The location of the site is -32.272, 150.903, about 2 kilometres south east of Muswellbrook, NSW. A total of four adult *D. impar* were located on 14 October 2012 while hand searching. Two individuals were each found beneath relatively small basalt rocks. A further two specimens were found beneath discarded sheets of corrugated iron. The ambient air temperature was approximately 22° C and the sky was overcast; there was little to no wind. One of the lizards (Figure 1) was photographed and released.

The closest record for *D. impar* is 4.5km south-east Goulburn, (Atlas of Living Australia, 2013). This record represents an approximate 300 kilometre range extension to the NNE. It is unusual that the species has not been recorded in the Hunter Valley previously, even though they can be difficult to locate, due to the relative proximity to Sydney.

REFERENCES

Atlas of Living Australia 2013. *Delma impar* records, last accessed on the 1/7/2013.

Wilson, S. & Swan, G. 2013. A complete guide to the reptiles of Australia. Fourth edition. New Holland. Sydney

