

## Calotes (Garden lizard)

### Classification :

**Kingdom** : Animalia

**Phylum** : Chordata

**Class** : Reptilia

**Order** : Squamata

**Family** : Agamidae

**Genus** : *Calotes*

**Species** : *versicolor*



For further details, [Link](#)

### Characteristics :

- Calotes, or garden lizards, are agile, tree-dwelling agamids found across Asia, known for their ability to change colour and their diurnal, insectivorous habits.
- They are medium-sized reptiles, growing up to 30-60 cm, with a distinctive dorsal crest and male coloration that intensifies during the breeding season.
- They live in various habitats, including gardens and forests, and reproduce by laying eggs.
- The chameleon's specialized vision and a specialized tongue-projection system permit the capture of insects and even birds from a distance. The chameleon's eyes are very good at detecting and regulating light.

### Physical Characteristics

- **Size:** Generally 20-30 cm, though some species can reach 60 cm, with the tail being over half the total length.
- **Color:** Typically green or brown, but they can dramatically change color, often exhibiting brighter colors during the breeding season.
- **Body:** They have a horizontally flattened body.
- **Dorsal Crests:** A continuous crest of spines along the back, which is more prominent in males.

- **Head Ornamentation:** Some male Calotes species possess horns, used in territorial displays.

### **Habitat and Diet**

- **Habitat:** Found in gardens, forests, and agricultural areas.
- **Diet:** Primarily insectivorous, consuming insects, other invertebrates, spiders, and occasionally small vertebrates.

### **Behaviour**

- **Diurnal:** Active during the day.
- **Arboreal:** Tree-dwelling, they often use foliage for roosting at night.
- **Territorial:** Males become territorial and perform displays, like push-ups and inflating their throat, to intimidate rivals during breeding season.

### **Reproduction**

- **Oviparous:** Females lay eggs in clutches, burying them in moist soil.
- **Incubation:** Eggs are long, spindle-shaped, and take about 6-7 weeks to hatch.

### **Ecological Role:**

By consuming a large number of insects and other invertebrates, they play a significant role in maintaining a healthy balance in their ecosystem.