

## The Manchester Ridge-back

The Manchester Ridge-back is a rare form of dragon, which is only seen at night. Ridge-backs are easy to identify as they are the smallest dragon in the British Isles. They are the size of a cat and covered in shiny scales. The adult Ridge-back is a dark green colour which enables it to hide in trees and tall grass. However, juveniles are born with a yellowish tinge. The majority of Ridge-backs are found across the city of Manchester especially in parks and gardens where they feel safest. They nest in fir trees and, because they only fly at night, are very rarely seen.

While most dragons are renowned for hoarding treasure, the Ridge-back shows no interest in gold, silver or any valuable stones. They are only interested in playing chess and several Ridge-backs have become world champions. These shy and gentle creatures are vegetarians. While their breath is warm, they do not breathe fire. Ridge-backs present no danger to humans and indeed, some have been tamed as household pets.

Dragonologists have been concerned for many years that Ridge-backs might be mistaken for other species and therefore become hunted. Where nests have been discovered, their location is kept secret. To protect these mysterious and beautiful creatures, all dragon lovers should make sure that vegetable peelings should be left out during snowy weather. It would be disastrous if another species of dragon became extinct.

Dragon Seeker - Pie Corbett