



- Native and Special**
- New Zealand has around 100 species of native lizards
 - At least 13 of these species (6 gecko and 7 skink) live in the Wellington region. However, only 10 (including Whittakers) are still present on the mainland
 - All native NZ lizards (except for one skink species) give birth to live young and are slow to reproduce
 - They have a long life – native geckos have been found in the wild over 50 years old
 - Having evolved without mammalian predators they are easy prey for cats, rats and mice
 - NZ lizards eat insects, fruit and nectar
 - Lizards are important for our native ecosystems as:
 - tiny predators (eating insects and bugs)
 - prey (food for native birds)
 - pollinators and seed dispersers of many native plants



Skinks and Geckos – whats the difference?

Things to look out for:

- Skinks**
- Slender and shiny like a snake with legs
 - No obvious neck
 - Eyes that blink
 - Narrow toes
- Geckos**
- Loose baggy skin like suede
 - Have a 'neck'
 - Large round eyes that don't blink
 - they lick their eyes to clean them
 - Often have wide toe pads



AT RISK

In Trouble

Over 80% of New Zealand's native lizards are **Threatened** or **At Risk**.

Many are now restricted to offshore islands or areas with intensive predator control.



- Lizards are at risk from:**
- **Predators**
Cats, rats, mice, hedgehogs and mustelids (stoats, ferrets, weasels)
 - **Habitat destruction**
Subdivision, construction, landscaping
 - **Illegal collection and smuggling**
 - **Competition and displacement**
from introduced lizards (plague skink)
- All Native lizards are protected under the WILDLIFE ACT 1953. This means they cannot be collected or kept without a permit. It is also an offence to kill them or destroy their habitat. Please consider our native lizards when removing vegetation or doing earthworks.*



Lampropholis delicata

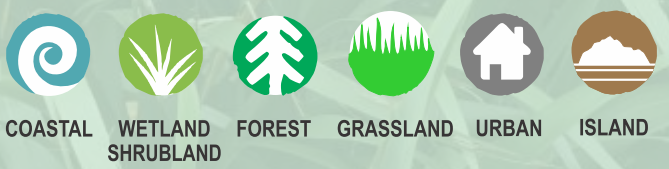
- Plague Skink (Australian Invader)**
- They lay eggs and are able to reproduce quicker than our native species.
 - Plague skinks are inquisitive and hitch rides in plants, luggage, etc.
 - They are known to lay eggs in potting mix and garden materials.
 - Contact the DOC hotline if you see small eggs like these.
- Plague skinks or rainbow skinks come from Australia and are spreading through NZ. They are not currently present in the Wellington region, although they have been found in Manawatu.

How you can Help

- Injured wildlife**
DOC hotline ph. 0800 362 468
Lizards requiring treatment can be taken to **Wellington Zoo (The Nest) Ph. 04 381 6755**
- Get information**
Join the NZ Herpetological society
<http://www.reptiles.org.nz/>
- Join a local conservation group**
Search Nature Space <http://www.naturespace.org.nz/>
- Join a Predator-Free Suburb**
Search Facebook (Predator-Free + Suburb Name)
- Record your sightings**
iNaturalist inaturalist.nz
Department of Conservation tinyurl.com/report-a-sighting



Lizard Habitats



Native lizards live in a wide variety of habitats from urban areas, to coastal areas and remote islands

Lizards need to be safe from predators in undisturbed places like:

- Grassy weedy areas
- Shady moist areas – leaf litter
- Rotting logs or old piles of timber or stones
- Stacks of bricks, pavers or rock piles
- Crevices in walls and sheds
- Trees
- Clay banks
- Established foliage bushes

What You Can Do

- Make your garden lizard friendly. Plant:**
 - Low growing and clump forming plants like toe toe, *Astelia* and flax
 - Dense climbers (but not weeds)
 - Divaricating (many branched) native plants
 - Nectar producing plants like manuka, flax, lacebark, rata, *Pittosporums*
- Create spaces for lizards to live:**
 - Rock piles
 - Logs and debris in garden
 - Leave areas of deep leaf litter and mulch
- Reduce use of chemicals and sprays**
Lizards eat insects and drink nectar!
- Control predators**
Especially rats, mice and stoats
- Be responsible pet owners**
Cats are very good lizard predators and can easily wipe out local lizard populations.

Look out FOR Lizards

Wellington Region



© Andrew Morrison

Local Lizards

Wellington Region

Photos: ©Trent Bell
[NOT TO SCALE]



Goldstripe gecko
Woodworthia chrysosiretica
(Moko mangaeka)

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Duvaucel's gecko
Hoplodactylus duvaucelii



Minimac gecko
Woodworthia "Marlborough mini"



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Barking gecko
Naultinus punctatus



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Ngahere gecko
Mokopirirakau "southern North Island"



Raukawa gecko
Woodworthia maculata



Copper skink
Oligosoma aeneum



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McGregor's skink
Oligosoma macgregori



REGIONALLY EXTINCT

Robust skink
Oligosoma alani



Northern grass skink
Oligosoma polychroma



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Northern spotted skink
Oligosoma kokowai



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Glossy brown skink
Oligosoma zelandicum



THREATENED

Whitaker's skink
Oligosoma whitakeri



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Ornate skink
Oligosoma ornatum



Lizard Habitats

Native lizards live in a wide variety of habitats from forests and beaches to isolated islands

