



## 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 Whitakers) 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



**What You Can Do**

**Make Your Garden Lizard Friendly. Plant:**

- Low growing and clump forming plants like toe toe, *Astelia* and flax
- Dense climbing (many branched) native plants like lacebark, rata, *Pittosporum*
- Nectar producing plants like manuka, flax, divaricating (many branched) native plants
- 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: logs and debris in garden rock piles
- Create spaces for lizards to live: grassy weedy areas, shady moist areas – leaf litter and mulch, 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

**Reduce Use of Chemicals and Sprays**

**Control Predators**

**Be Responsible Pet Owners**

Cats are very good lizard predators and can easily wipe out local lizard populations.

**Join a Predator-Free Suburb**

Search Nature Space <http://www.naturespace.org.nz/>

**Join a Local Conservation Group**

Join the NZ Herpetological Society <http://www.reptiles.org.nz/>

**Record your sightings**

Search Facebook Predator-Free + Suburb Name

**Join a Predator-Free Suburb**

Search Nature Space <http://www.naturespace.org.nz/>

**Get Information**

DOC hotline ph. 0800 362 468

Wellington Zoo Ph. 04 381 6755

**Lizard Habitats**

COSTAL WETLAND FOREST GRASSLAND URBAN ISLAND SHRUBLAND

**Help You can How**

**Injured Wildlife**

DOC hotline ph. 0800 362 468

Wellington Zoo <http://www.wellingtonzoo.org.nz/>

Lizards requiring treatment can be taken to Wellington Zoo (The Nest) Ph. 04 381 6755

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**Lizard Habitats**

COSTAL WETLAND FOREST GRASSLAND URBAN ISLAND SHRUBLAND

**Plague Skink (Australian Invader)**

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.

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.

**Skinks and Geckos – what's 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

**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.

**AT RISK**

**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**

Further information: <https://tinyurl.com/plague-skink>

# Local Lizards

Wellington Region  
Photos: © Trent Bell  
[NOT TO SCALE]



**Barking gecko**  
*Naultinus punctatus*



**McGregor's skink**  
*Oligosoma macgregori*



**Glossy brown skink**  
*Oligosoma zelandicum*



**Goldstripe gecko**  
*Woodworthia chrysosiretica*  
(Moko mangaeka)



**Ngahere gecko**  
*Mokopirirakau* "southern North Island"



**Robust skink**  
*Oligosoma alani*



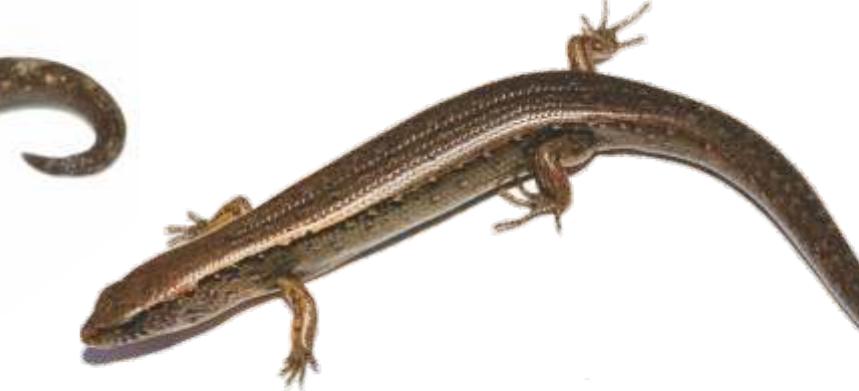
**Whitaker's skink**  
*Oligosoma whitakeri*



**Duvaucel's gecko**  
*Hoplodactylus duvaucelii*



**Raukawa gecko**  
*Woodworthia maculata*



**Copper skink**  
*Oligosoma aeneum*



**Northern grass skink**  
*Oligosoma polychroma*



**Northern spotted skink**  
*Oligosoma kokowai*



**Ornate skink**  
*Oligosoma ornatum*

