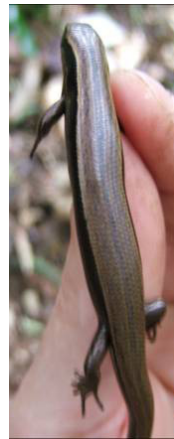


Skinks of the Wellington region

Common Skink



Brown Skink



Ornate Skink



Copper Skink



Spotted Skink



Wellington Region – Skink Identification Card

| ID feature | Common skink <i>Oligosoma polychroma</i> | Brown skink <i>Oligosoma zelandicum</i> | Ornate skink <i>Oligosoma ornatum</i> | Copper skink <i>Oligosoma aeneum</i> | Spotted skink <i>Oligosoma lineocellatum</i> |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| Maximum SVL (snout-to-vent length) “Vent” = anal opening | 77mm | 73mm | 80mm | 62mm | 111mm |
| Jaws rimmed with brown and white pattern | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | No |
| Lower margin of the eye has a “teardrop” | No | No | Yes | No | No |
| Back | Brown. Has prominent stripes and often highly speckled. (occasionally dark brown/almost black) | Brown. Back is a lighter brown than the sides. (some shoreline populations black) | Brown. Has large pale blotches along top and sides of tail extending on to the back. | Brown. May be speckled. Often has a bright copper stripe at the edges especially above the forelimbs. | Brown or green. Has distinctive pale spots edged in black. |
| Underside or stomach | Grey to yellowish; usually unspotted. Never orange or red. | Belly grey/straw coloured or suffused with orange or red; sometimes spotted. Throat usually spotted. | Yellowish often with red tinges; may be spotted. | Belly creamy to yellow; unspotted. Throat paler than stomach; usually spotted. | Belly pink or red; may be spotted. Throat grey with black spots. |
| Tail | Re-grown tail may be reddish above and below. | Underside often flushed with orange / red. | | Especially the underside may be flushed with red. | |
| Forelimbs with continuous stripe down outer surface | Yes | Yes | No | No | No |
| Soles of feet | Grey to yellowish | Dark brown to black | | | |
| Colour of iris | Yellow | Red | Red | Red | Yellow |

References:

- Gill, BJ & Whitaker, AH 2001, *New Zealand Frogs and Reptiles*. David Bateman Ltd, Auckland, NZ
- Towns, DR, 1988, A field guide to the lizards of New Zealand, *New Zealand Wildlife Service Occasional Publication No. 7*
- Photos by Richard Romijn (unless otherwise stated)