

Rainbow skink*

Lampropholis delicata



KEY FEATURES



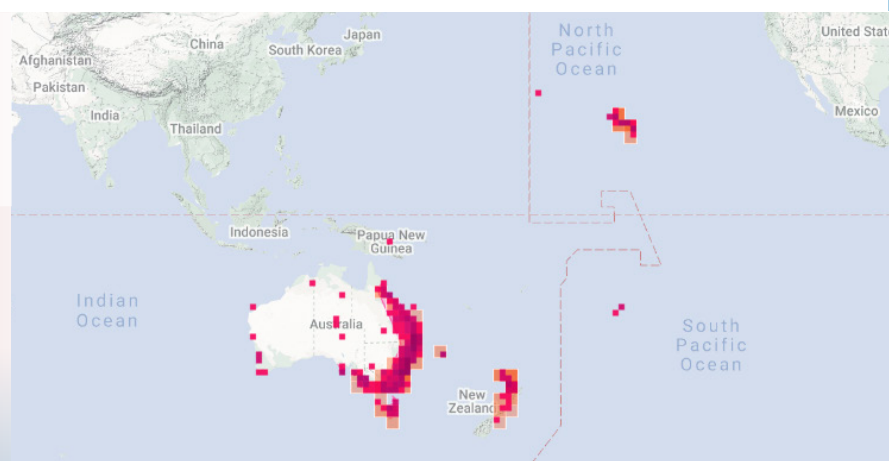
- Rainbow skinks are 3–4cm long from the tip of the nose to back legs, excluding the long thin tail.
- They are brown or grey-brown with a dark brown stripe down each side. A narrow yellowish-brown stripe is usually present on the outer edge of the back. The species can also have two distinct forms: one has a prominent white stripe and a less prominent white stripe
- The skink has an shiny, rainbow, or metallic sheen, when seen in bright light.
- Plague skinks lay many eggs, with communal nests of 20–100 small white eggs, 8–10 mm long, oval in shape. The eggs have a tough leathery shell. It is common to lay their eggs in the soil of potted plants



PATHWAYS

- Verifiable observations
- GBIF network

- Shipping/machinery
- Potted plants



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IMPACTS



Environment

Reaches high abundances relatively quickly. Out-compete and exclude native lizard species. Prey on native invertebrates (insects).



Health

None reported.



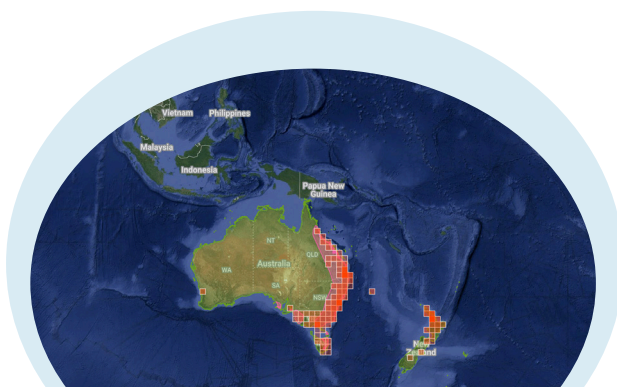
Society and Culture

None reported.



Economy

Flocks can damage fruit crops, including papaya, mangoes, bananas, carambole (star fruit), java apple, golden apple, tomato, chilli and other cultivated fruits.



DISTRIBUTION

Native range

Eastern Australia and Tasmania.

Introduced range

Well established in New Zealand in the north of both islands. Introduced to Hawai'i. Reported from Cook Islands and Papua New Guinea (iNaturalist).

* Also called plague skink in New Zealand and delicate garden skink in Australia.



SOURCES Text and image: Greater Wellington Regional Council, Wikipedia, New Zealand Department of Conservation
Map: iNaturalist



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

