

# 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>O. nigriplantare polychroma</i>	Brown skink <i>Oligosoma zelandicum</i>	Ornate skink <i>Cyclodina ornata</i>	Copper skink <i>Cyclodina aenea</i>	Spotted skink <i>Oligosoma lineoocellatum</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
Dorsum (the back or posterior side)	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 green spots edged in black.
Venter (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 grey, 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	No	Yes	No	No	No
Soles of feet	Grey to yellowish	Dark brown to black			
Colour of iris	Yellow	Red			

### 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)