

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)