



REPTILE

Pseudemoia entrecasteauxii

Southern Grass Skink

AUS	SA	AMLR	Endemism	Residency
-	-	V	-	Resident



Photo: © Tony Robinson

Conservation Significance

The AMLR distribution is part of a very limited extant distribution in adjacent regions within SA. Within the AMLR the species' relative area of occupancy is classified as 'Extremely Restricted'.²

Description

Small grey-brown to olive coloured skink with a dark brown vertebral stripe from nape to base of tail. Silvery grey, olive or whitish below. Length 50mm (snout-vent), tail about 150% snout-vent length.¹

Distribution and Population

Occurs in south-eastern SA, VIC and the highlands of NSW; TAS and the islands of Bass Strait.¹

Patchy distribution in the AMLR. Occurs in coastal samphire north of Outer Harbour and may also occur at Port Prime. More common outside the region, e.g. Canunda in South East of State (M. Hutchinson *pers. comm.*).

Post-1983 AMLR filtered records restricted and isolated limited to Port Gawler, east of Mount Compass and Spring Mount CP.²

Pre-1983 AMLR filtered records are limited with single records for Middle Beach, Port Gawler, north and west suburbs and Second Valley Forest.²

Habitat

Found in a variety of forest and grassland habitats; usually seen on or around fallen timber, or foraging in leaf-litter.¹ Occurs in heathy swamps and coastal

samphire.

On the Adelaide Plains sometimes found along the coast, in reedbeds and samphire communities.⁴ A 'swamp' dweller occurring in boggy areas in AMLR unlike other areas of its range (M. Hutchinson *pers. comm.*).

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation groups are Wetland and Coastal.²

Biology and Ecology

Viviparous.¹ Prefers long-unburnt habitat. Research has found that numbers are significantly lower in burnt areas than in areas unaffected by fire. Forages in the grass, herb and litter layers, the micro-habitats that are most affected by fire.³

Aboriginal Significance

Post-1983 records indicate the entire AMLR distribution occurs in Ngarrindjeri Nation, bordering Kaurna Nation.²

Threats

Likely threats to the species include:

- loss of habitat, especially riparian/wetland areas
- predation by cats and foxes
- habitat disturbance or degradation
- fire and fire management activities
- climate change and drought
- water pollution or poisoning by pesticides (M. Hutchinson *pers. comm.*).

Additional current direct threats have been identified and rated for this species. Refer to the main plan accompanying these profiles.

Further information:

Biodiversity Conservation Unit, Adelaide Region
Phone: (61 8) 8336 0901 Fax: (61 8) 8336 0999
<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/>

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Prepared as part of the Regional Recovery Plan for Threatened Species and Ecological Communities of Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges, South Australia 2009 - 2014



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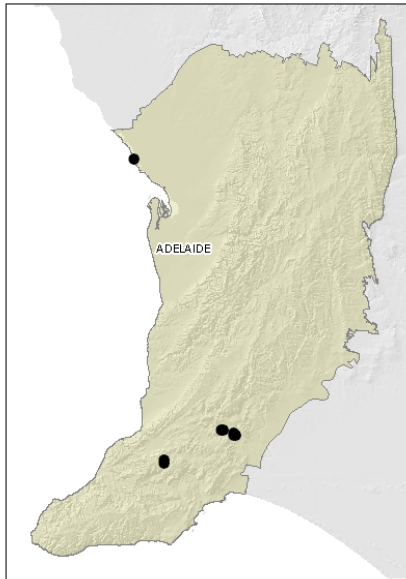


ADELAIDE AND MOUNT LOFTY RANGES SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Threatened Species Profile

Department
for Environment
and Heritage

Regional Distribution



Map based on filtered post-1983 records.² Note, this map does not necessarily represent the actual species' distribution within the AMLR.

References

Note: In some cases original reference sources are not included in this list, however they can be obtained from the reference from which the information has been sourced (the reference cited in superscript).

¹ Cogger, H. G. (2000). *Reptiles and Amphibians of Australia (Sixth Edition)*. Reed New Holland.

² Department for Environment and Heritage (2007). *Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Regional Recovery Pilot Project Database*. Unpublished data extracted and edited from BDBSA, SA Herbarium (July 2007) and other sources.

³ Irvin, M., Westbrooke, M. and Gibson, M. (2003). *Effects of repeated low-intensity fire on reptile populations of a mixed eucalypt foothill forest in south-eastern Australia. Research Report No. 65*. Victorian Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria.

⁴ Turner, M. S. (2001). *Conserving Adelaide's Biodiversity: Resources*. Urban Forest Biodiversity Program, Adelaide.

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