

## LaRC Nature Series



Map of the Five-Lined Skink's habitat range in North America.



Avoid handling - they carry the bacteria Salmonella which usually does not cause any illness in reptiles, but can cause illness in humans.

Their lifespan can vary from 5 to 20 years.

The Five-Lined Skink's diet consists mostly of crickets, slugs, and caterpillars, but they also eat spiders, termites, frogs, and smaller lizards.

Females lay 15 to 18 eggs which takes about 24 to 55 days to hatch.

The Five-Lined Skink grows approximately 5 to 8 ½ inches long.

# FIVE-LINED SKINK

**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Plestiodon fasciatus*

**CLASS:** Reptile

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** Least concern



## Fun Facts

When threatened, it can lose its tail which confuses its enemy and allows it time to escape! Its tail will eventually grow back.

They can be found hiding under cover, such as logs or rocks.

When they are young, they have a blue tail. When they mature, it turns gray, brown, or green.

## Population

The species is endemic to North America and is one of the most common lizards in the eastern U.S. They can normally be found in damp forested areas and around structures.



The Five-Lined Skink is one of the fastest reptiles in the world.

For any wildlife-related concerns, please call the LaRC Environmental Office (Ande Remington) at 757-864-8332.

[environmental.larc.nasa.gov](http://environmental.larc.nasa.gov)

Data obtained from the National Wildlife Federation and the National Geographic.