

Five Lined SKINK



FIVE LINED SKINK

Scientific Name: *Plestiodon fasciatus*

Range: eastern North America, ranging from the Gulf of Mexico north to the lower Great Lakes and east to the Atlantic coast.

The Five Lined Skink is Ontario's only species of lizard. They face threats from habitat loss as land is developed for cottages and recreation trails. They are food for small mammals and snakes and often get killed on the road. It is a species of Special Concern in Ontario.

HABITAT AND FOOD

In our region the Five Lined Skink prefers rock outcrops in mixed forests and fields on the Southern Canadian Shield. They are often found near permanent water bodies, as they can easily suffer dehydration. They eat worms and insects. They prefer open areas where the sun reaches the ground and shelter (such as rocks) is readily available.

APPEARANCE

This lizard is small and smooth bodied. It

is about 20 cm including its tail. The Five Lined Skink is grey to black with five white to yellow stripes on the body. The young have bright blue tails that change to grey in adulthood.

PROTECTION

The Five Lined Skink is protected under the federal Species at Risk Act. It also qualifies for special protection under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act in Ontario. It is illegal to collect Five Lined Skinks for the pet trade.