

Sadlier's skink



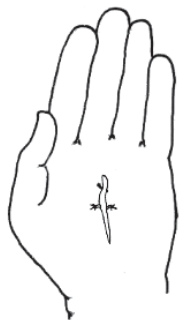
Sadlier's skink habitat © Eric Vanderduys

Description

Sadlier's skink is a very small ground-dwelling skink that reaches up to 63 millimetres in size. It is brown with some gold flecking and an oily bluish sheen over some of its scales. The sides of this skink are dark brown.

Distribution

Sadlier's skink occurs only in Queensland and is only known from Magnetic Island, north Queensland. This species may occur on parts of the mainland, but more targeted surveys need to be conducted to clarify this.



Scientific Name:

Menetia sadlieri

Conservation Status

Rare - *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Queensland)

Sadlier's skink warms itself underneath sun-warmed leaf litter, to reduce their exposure to potential predators.

Habitat

The basic habitat requirements of this species are poorly understood. Most specimens have been recorded from the low lying areas of Magnetic Island, including woodlands, well shaded gullies and disturbed garden areas.

Ecology and Life Cycle

Very little is known about the ecology of Sadlier's skink. It tends to warm itself underneath sun-warmed leaf litter, to reduce their exposure to potential predators. When Sadlier's skink is disturbed it quickly vanishes under leaf litter and even into crumbly soils.

A captive study showed that one female laid two eggs, each weighing only 0.05 grams, but these failed to hatch in captivity.

Key Threats

Loss of habitat and weed invasion: Island species such as Sadlier's skink, may have suffered more than species in any other habitat. Having evolved in isolation, often in response to specialised conditions, and lacking reservoirs for re-colonisation, these species display the characteristics of small populations including sensitivity to changes in their environment. Uncontrolled development in lowland areas of the island may destroy vital habitat.



Sadlier's skink © Eric Vanderduys



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How to help

- Become involved in community-based on-ground projects such as field surveys to clarify the extent of the skink's range and its habitat preferences.
- Maintain large, healthy, connected patches of native vegetation.
- Report sightings to WWF-Australia, the Queensland Museum or the EPA/QPWS. Taking a photo of live or dead specimens is useful to help identification.

To find out more about saving threatened species check out www.wwf.org.au/tsn or contact the Threatened Species Network at tsn@wwf.org.au.



Threatened Species Network



Australian Government



WWF

The Threatened Species Network is a community-based program of the Australian Government and WWF-Australia.



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