Rainbow skink*  
*Lampopholis delicata*

**KEY FEATURES**

- Rainbow skinks are 3-4 cm long from the tip of the nose to back legs, excluding the long thin tail.
- They are brown or grey-brown with a dark brown stripe down each side. A narrow yellowish-brown stripe is usually present on the outer edge of the back. The species can also have two distinct forms: one has a prominent white stripe and a less prominent white stripe.
- The skink has an shiny, rainbow, or metallic sheen, when seen in bright light.
- Plague skinks lay many eggs, with communal nests of 20-100 small white eggs, 8-10 mm long, oval in shape. The eggs have a tough leathery shell. It is common to lay their eggs in the soil of potted plants.

**PATHWAYS**

✓ shipping/machinery  
✓ potted plants
Rainbow skink*
*Lampropholis delicata*

**IMPACTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environment</th>
<th>Health</th>
<th>Society &amp; Culture</th>
<th>Economy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reaches high abundances relatively quickly. Out-compete and exclude native lizard species. Prey on native invertebrates (insects)</td>
<td>None reported</td>
<td>None reported</td>
<td>None reported</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DISTRIBUTION**

**Native range**
Eastern Australia and Tasmania

**Introduced range**
Well established in New Zealand in the north of both islands. Introduced to Hawai‘i. Reported from Cook Islands and Papua New Guinea (iNaturalist)

**ADDITIONAL NOTES**

* Also called Plague skink in New Zealand and delicate garden skink in Australia

**INFORMATION SOURCES**
(click links for more)

- **Text and images**
  - Greater Wellington Regional council, Wikipedia, New Zealand Department of Conservation
- **Map**
  - iNaturalist