

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Animal Abstract

Element Code: ARACH01030Data Sensitivity: No**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**NAME: *Plestiodon callicephalus*

COMMON NAME: Mountain Skink

SYNONYMS: *Eumeces tetragrammus callicephalus*, *Eumeces callicephalus*

FAMILY: Sauria: Scincidae

AUTHOR, PUBLICATION: Bocourt

TYPE LOCALITY: Guanajuato, Mexico.

TYPE SPECIMEN:

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: The genus *Plestiodon* contains 13 species throughout North America. In a phylogenetic analysis of *Eumeces* based on morphology, Griffith et al. (2000) proposed splitting *Eumeces* into multiple genera, based on the apparent paraphyly of *Eumeces*. Smith (2005) and Brandley et al. (2005) formally proposed that all North American species (north of Mexico) be placed in the genus *Plestiodon*. *P. callicephalus* is monotypic.

DESCRIPTION: Stebbins 1966:122. Snout-vent length 2-2½ inches. Above yellowish brown to tan. Four light stripes above and on sides. Tail varies from gray to blue towards tip but not all adults have blue.

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:**ILLUSTRATIONS:** Color drawing (Stebbins 1966: plate 24)

TOTAL RANGE: Extreme southern Arizona and extreme southwestern corner of New Mexico (Guadalupe Canyon, Guadalupe Mountains) southeast to Queretaro Mexico. From coastal plain in Sinaloa and Nayarit well up into Sierra Madre Occidental.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: Pajarito, Baboquivari, Santa Rita and Huachuca Mountains in extreme southern Arizona.

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS**BIOLOGY:**

REPRODUCTION: Lays 5-10 eggs.

FOOD HABITS: Arthropods.

HABITAT: In Arizona, in oak woodland and pine forest; under and among rocks and logs in canyons and on hillsides.

ELEVATION: From about 4,000 - 6,500 ft. (1,220 - 1,983 m).

PLANT COMMUNITY:

POPULATION TRENDS: Unknown

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:

STATE STATUS:

2 (AZGFD, AWCS 2022)
[None (AGFD SWAP 2012)]

OTHER STATUS:

MANAGEMENT FACTORS: Extreme north edge of range and limited distribution and habitat destruction. Habitat management by USFS.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN: None

SUGGESTED PROJECTS: Distribution, habitat, population and life history studies.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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