

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

Animal Abstract

Element Code: ARACH01065

Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Plestiodon gilberti rubricaudatus*

COMMON NAME: Western Red-tailed Skink; Western Redtail Skink; Arizona Skink

SYNONYMS: *Eumeces gilberti rubricaudatus*, *Eumeces gilberti arizonensis*

FAMILY: Scincidae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: Taylor, 1935

TYPE LOCALITY: Tehachapi Mountains, Kern County, California

TYPE SPECIMEN: California Acad. Sci. 39002. J.R. Slevin. 8 April 1914.

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: Three subspecies of *P. gilberti* are recognized, only *P.g. rubricaudatus* in Arizona. 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*.

DESCRIPTION: Large, reaching at least 113 mm (4.5 in.) snout to vent. Tail about 1.67 times to nearly twice head-bodylength. Limbs well developed, overlapping or separated slightly when appressed. Young closely resemble *P.g. cancellosus* but do not have blue wash on dorsal surface of pink tail (distinctive coloration lost at about 65.0-70.0 mm (2.6-2.8 in.) SVL. Adults uniform olive brown, some developing bright reddish-orange heads. Scale rows around middle of body 24-26; most commonly 24; supralabials almost always 8, 3 enlarged nuchals and interparietal plate long and narrow. No sexual dimorphism.

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:

ILLUSTRATIONS:

TOTAL RANGE: Range disjunct through most of eastern California, southern Nevada, and northwestern and central Arizona (Jones 1985). Southern Sierra Nevada of California and the Coast Range southward to northern Baja California (Smith 1946). Many isolated populations in California, in Nevada and in Baja California (Stebbins 1966).

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: Mohave and Yavapai counties.

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

BIOLOGY:

REPRODUCTION:

FOOD HABITS:

HABITAT:

ELEVATION: Above 4,000 feet (1,220 m).

PLANT COMMUNITY: Chaparral and pinyon-juniper woodland.

POPULATION TRENDS:

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:

STATE STATUS:

None (AZGFD, AWCS 2022)

[1C (AGFD SWAP 2012)]

OTHER STATUS:

Diario oficial de la federacion 1994

MANAGEMENT FACTORS:

PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:

SUGGESTED PROJECTS:

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

Arizona Game and Fish Department. 2012. Arizona's State Wildlife Action Plan 2012-2022. Phoenix, AZ.

Arizona Game and Fish Department. 2022. Arizona Wildlife Conservation Strategy: 2022-2032. Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, Arizona. 378 pages.

Brandley, M.C., Schmitz, A. and Reeder, T.W., 2005. Partitioned Bayesian analyses, partition choice, and the phylogenetic relationships of scincid lizards. Systematic biology, 54(3), pp.373-390.

Griffith, H. Ngo, A. and Murphy, R.W., 2000. A cladistic evaluation of the cosmopolitan genus *Eumeces* Wiegmann (Reptilia, Squamata, Scincidae). *Russian Journal of Herpetology*, 7(1), pp. 1-16.

Jones, K.B. 1985. Catalogue of American amphibians and reptiles. The Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles. p.372.2

Smith, H.M. 1946. Handbook of lizards. Comstock Publishing Co. Ithaca, New York. p.388.

Stebbins, R.C. 1954. Amphibians and reptiles of western North America. McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc. New York. pp. 284, 323.

MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Revised: 1995-02-01 (DBI)
2020-06-09 (KSL)
2023-04-30 (MBL)

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