

Common name	Crocodile Skink
Scientific name	<i>Tribolonotus gracilis</i>
IUCN status	Least Concern (IUCN, 2022), but population is likely declining
Conservation threats	• Fragmentation of population due to habitat disturbance from human activities • Collection for the pet trade
Primary conservation message/action	Our day-to-day choices have a local and global influence on wildlife and wild places: Be a responsible pet owner. • Do not support the wild—often illegal—pet trade. Be sure any animal you obtain as a pet comes from a reputable breeder. • Non-domesticated species <i>generally do not make good pets</i>. They typically have complex needs that most people cannot meet in their homes. Before getting any animal as a pet, make sure you know everything you need to care for it properly. • If you can no longer care for a pet, do not release it to the wild. The animal itself will likely suffer, and it could possibly cause harm (through disease, predation) to the local ecosystem.
Physical description	Length: 8–10 inches Weight: 1.3–1.6 ounces Coloration: • Dark brown back and sides, with a yellowish, cream-colored underbelly • Adults have a red ring around each eye. Sexual dimorphism: Males typically larger than females and have a stockier build. Males also have large pores on their hind feet.

Species notable features or adaptations	• Have rough scales on the body with rows of spiny projections down the spine to the base of the tail • Their heads also have bony plates, like a helmet. The plates act like a suit of armor to protect against predators. • One of the few skink species that vocalize when distressed. • Terrestrial (ground-dwelling) and semi-fossorial (burrowing) • Frequently hide under debris on the forest floor. As coconut plantations are taking more of their habitat, they have been found hiding within piles of coconut husks. • Commonly have a freeze response when startled.
Native habitat & range	Habitat • Tropical rainforest Range • Papua New Guinea (Indonesia)
Natural diet & feeding behavior	Carnivore (Insectivore) • Feed on grubs, crickets, and worms
Activity	Crepuscular
Social structure	Primarily solitary
Ecological relationships	Their predators: Include a variety of mammals, birds, and other reptiles
Mating & reproduction	• Female lays only one egg at a time. Although females have two ovaries, only the right oviduct is functional. • The female will defend her egg by covering it with her body and biting an attacker. She will also make chirping noises. • The female may care for the hatchling for up to a few weeks.
Median life expectancy	MLE data not available. Can live up to about 10 years.