



COMMONWEALTH of the  
NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS



PHOTOS BY SCOTT VOGT and GORDON REHODA

Blue-Tailed Skink  
*Emoia caeruleocauda*



Tide Pool Skink  
*Emoia atrocostata*

RESIDENT REPTILES

# SKINKS of the CNMI

## Achi'ak *Chamorro*

### IDENTIFICATION

There are seven species of skinks and one species of anole in the CNMI. Skinks have large scales covering their bodies that are actually plates of skin. Anoles have small scales and can rapidly change color to blend in with their surroundings. Male anoles have a colorful flap of skin under their chin called a dewlap that is used when courting females.

### HABITAT and FEEDING

Skinks and anoles are found in a variety of habitats including forest floors, trees and grasslands. They are also common in urbanized areas.

Their favorite foods are insects, which they catch with amazing speed. Most skinks and anoles are diurnal, or active during the daylight hours.

### REPRODUCTION

Skinks usually lay one or two eggs per clutch and can deposit several clutches throughout the year. Some skinks such as the moth skink give birth to live young. Female anoles lay a single egg in the leaf litter or ground detritus.

### THREATS and CONSERVATION

Predation and habitat loss are the primary threats to skinks and anoles. Cats, rats, larger reptiles and birds such as the Collared kingfisher feed on skinks and anoles, especially the juveniles. The curious skink, a recent introduction, has displaced native species in many areas due to competition and predation.

Efforts are being made to keep the Brown treesnake (*Boiga irregularis*) out of the CNMI due to its devastating effects on many reptile and bird populations.



Snake-Eyed Skink  
*Cryptoblepharus poecilopheurus*



Curious Skink  
*Carlia fusca*



Slevin's Skink  
*Emoia slevini* endemic



Carolina Anole  
*Anolis carolinensis*

## COLD BLOOD

Reptiles are cold blooded which means that their bodies are the same temperature as the environment. They rest in the sun to warm themselves.

**FACTOID!**



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