

Biodiversity



Number 5

Goldstripe gecko/Moko mangaeka *Woodworthia chrysosiretica*

DESCRIPTION

The goldstripe gecko is a distinctive yellow/brown to olive colour usually with alternate light and dark longitudinal stripes along its back. They grow to around 140mm in total length from their nose to the tip of their tail.

DISTRIBUTION, BREEDING AND FEEDING

The goldstripe gecko is only found in the North Island of New Zealand. In Taranaki it is found in both coastal and inland habitats from near Mokau to Waverley. They are also known from the pest free islands of Mana and Kapiti near Wellington.

The goldstripe gecko can live in a range of habitats including forest, wetland, scrub, coastal vegetation and farmland. They have even adapted to urban environments and are often seen in gardens sunning themselves in appropriate habitat such as flax bushes.

They are mostly nocturnal, but can be active during the daytime, and feed on small invertebrates, fruit and nectar. Mating usually takes place around April with their young born in February-March the following year.

GOLDSTRIPE GECKO IN TARANAKI

Taranaki is the mainland stronghold for the goldstripe gecko and has a significant role for the conservation of this species.

New populations continue to be discovered and significant efforts to assist the recovery of some of these populations are underway.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

- Plant native vegetation such as flax on your property to enhance habitat for geckos.
- Control predators on your property such as feral cats, rats and stoats to help protect gecko populations in Taranaki.
- Report sightings to the Taranaki Regional Council.



CONSERVATION

The goldstripe gecko is a threatened endemic New Zealand species and is listed as 'at risk'.

THREATS

Threats to this species include:

- Habitat loss and degradation.
- Introduced predators such as rats, stoats, cats and mice.
- Chemical spray such as herbicide.

QUICK FACTS:

- Goldstripe geckos are very agile compared to other gecko species.
- They have excellent smell, hearing and sight.
- They have only been recognized as a distinct separate species since 1980.
- Their eyelids are fused shut and the lower lid is transparent. They lick their lids to keep them clear.
- They give birth to live young.
- They are a protected species.



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