

## Sheen Skinks

**Check out the sheen skinks.**

*By Mark O'Shea*

Distribution: Eastern Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

Habitat: Coconut plantations and rainforests.

Diet: Spiders, insects and smaller skinks.

Max. length: 110 mm SVL (240 mm TL).

Reproductive strategy: Oviparous with clutches of up to five eggs.

There are two species of *Eugongylus* recorded for New Guinea and the Solomons, but although I have found *E. rufescens* all over Papua New Guinea, I have yet to locate a specimen I could consider the other species, *E. albofasciolatus*. The two species are primarily separated by their midbody scale counts, which overlap and can cause confusion: 26 to 34 in *E. albofasciolatus* and 32 to 38 in *E. rufescens*. This strong, stout-bodied, brown skink with iridescent scales is found occasionally within the coconut husk piles and it has been observed to feed on other smaller skinks such as *Carlia* or *Emoia*. Juvenile sheen skinks are red-brown with narrow transverse white crossbands.

Sources for more information:

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