

## The Pale-Headed Skink

**The pale-headed skink is a terrestrial skink that likes to bask.**

*By Mark O'Shea*

Distribution: Papua New Guinea endemic.

Habitat: Coconut plantations and both lowland and montane rainforests.

Diet: Small arthropods.

Max. length: 36-40 mm SVL.

Reproductive strategy: Oviparous with clutches of two eggs.

The pale-headed skink is a terrestrial skink that likes to bask. The flanks are dark brown to black, separated from the pale back by a well-defined whitish stripe.

Two subspecies are recognized:

*E. p. pallidiceps*: Madang Province to southeastern Papua New Guinea

*E. p. mehelyi*: Madang and East Sepik Provinces

The subspecies of Karkar Island is the northern pale-headed skink (*E. p. mehelyi*).

Sources for more information:

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Mys, B. 1988. "The zoogeography of the scincid lizards from North Papua New Guinea (Reptilia: Scincidae). I. The distribution of the species." Bulletin de L'Institute Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique. 58;127-183.