



INTRODUCED SPECIES

Confirmation of the Southeastern Five-lined Skink, *Plestiodon inexpectatus* Taylor 1932 (Scincidae), on Grand Bahama Island, Commonwealth of The Bahamas

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Photographs by Nancy A. Albury.

Johnson (2011) first documented a non-native skink (*Plestiodon* sp.) on Grand Bahama Island in Lucayan National Park, Commonwealth of The Bahamas. However, species identification could not be determined based on the photographs provided.

On 2 May 2012, Jakerio Spence and Cecilia Bodie collected an adult (78 mm SVL) skink at the Rand Nature Centre, Freeport, Grand Bahama Island (26.53966°N, 78.67283°W, Datum WGS84), approximately 28 km west of the site in Lucayan National Park (26.60416°N, 78.40277°W). This specimen was deposited in the Division of Herpetology, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida (UF 167115), and based on key morphological characters (see Conant and Collins 1991, Powell et al. 2012), we identified it as a Southeastern Five-lined Skink, *Plestiodon inexpectatus* Taylor 1932. The identity of the lizard was confirmed by Robert H. Robins.

While anecdotal reports of skinks in Lucayan National Park and nearby areas have accrued since 2008 (Johnson 2011), this species was likely introduced to Grand Bahama Island prior to the mid-1990s when the first known skink was observed at the Rand Nature Centre (S.D. Buckner, pers. comm.). *Plestiodon inexpectatus* is indigenous to Louisiana eastward to southern Maryland and Florida, USA (Conant and Collins 1991). Because it is the most abundant and widely distributed species of *Plestiodon* in adjacent Florida, USA (Krysko et al. 2011), we believe that its likely invasion pathway was via shipments of plants or other cargo from Florida. This is the first confirmed introduction of this species in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas (Kraus 2009, Powell et al. 2011).

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Dorsal and ventral views of the Southeastern Five-lined Skink, *Plestiodon inexpectatus* (UF 167115), from the Rand Nature Centre, Freeport, Grand Bahama Island, Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

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