



David Chapple

### Chair

David Chapple <sup>(1)</sup>

### Red List Authority Coordinator

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### Location/Affiliation

<sup>(1)</sup> School of Biological Sciences, Monash University, Australia

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### Number of members

95

### Social networks

Twitter: @skinks\_IUCN



### Mission statement

The IUCN Skink Specialist Group aims to complete Red List assessments for all skink species to identify species with high extinction risk, determine the factors underlying high extinction risk, develop strategies to manage risk and improve the status of threatened skink species, and coordinate conservation management for threatened skink species.

### Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, we anticipate making substantial progress towards assessing all remaining non-assessed species, coordinating re-assessment of species as their assessments expire, and coordinating the assessment of newly described species. We aim to promote and foster collaboration among the world's skink experts, and provide an avenue for regular interaction and collaboration (annual newsletter, website, email list, assessment workshops, skink conferences). We aim to (i) conduct analyses to determine the factors underlying extinction risk in skinks, (ii) identify regions, and taxonomic groups within skinks, that have elevated extinction risk, and (iii) determine the intrinsic and extrinsic factors that are associated with extinction risk in skinks. This will be communicated via scientific publications, regional assessment reports, our website, and through the popular media.

### Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

#### Assess

Red List: (1) complete assessment of all described skink species; (2) complete re-assessment of all skink species with expired assessments; (3) complete assessments for all newly described skink species.

Research activities: (1) assess the current conservation status of skinks globally; (2) determine the biogeography of skinks globally.

#### Communicate

Communication: launch a website for the specialist group (Internal Grants 2019).

### Activities and results 2018

#### Assess

##### Red List

- i.** We are working with our taxonomic coordinator to compile an agreed list of described skink species. Once this is in place, we will develop a plan for assessing the remaining unassessed species. (KSR #1)
- ii.** We will review the recent re-assessments for New Caledonian skinks. We are working on compiling a list of agreed skink species. This will be used as the starting point to determine what skink assessments have expired, or are due to expire, and these will be prioritised for re-assessment in the next 3 years. (KSR #1)
- iii.** We have set up Google Scholar and Web of Science alerts to inform us of new skink papers (including taxonomic papers). All Specialist Group members have also been requested to email new taxonomic papers to the Chair, and we have outlined to Specialist Group members the key information to include in taxonomic descriptions so that Red Listing of newly described species can be fast tracked. We will initiate assessments for newly described species soon after their description. (KSR #1)



Least Concern Olive Dasia *Dasia olivacea*  
Photo: SR Chandramouli



Least Concern Copper-tailed Ctenotus  
*Ctenotus taeniolatus*  
Photo: Damian Michael



Least Concern *Tribolonotus gracilis*  
Photo: Fred Kraus

#### Research activities

- i.** The lead authors have prepared a plan and outline for a scientific paper on current conservation status of skinks globally. (KSR #4)
- ii.** The lead authors have prepared a plan and outline for a scientific paper on the biogeography of skinks globally. (KSR #4)

#### **Communicate**

##### Communication

- i.** The proposed structure for the website of the Skink Specialist Group has been developed. (KSR #28)

#### **Acknowledgements**

Monash University (School of Biological Sciences), and Tel Aviv University (Steinhardt Museum of Natural History, and School of Zoology).

#### **Summary of activities 2018**

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 2/5

Assess **5** |||||

Communicate **1** |

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 4, 28

KSR: Key Species Result