

**Common skink**



**Copper skink**



**Common gecko**



**Spotted skink**



**Brothers Island tuatara**

**Common skink**



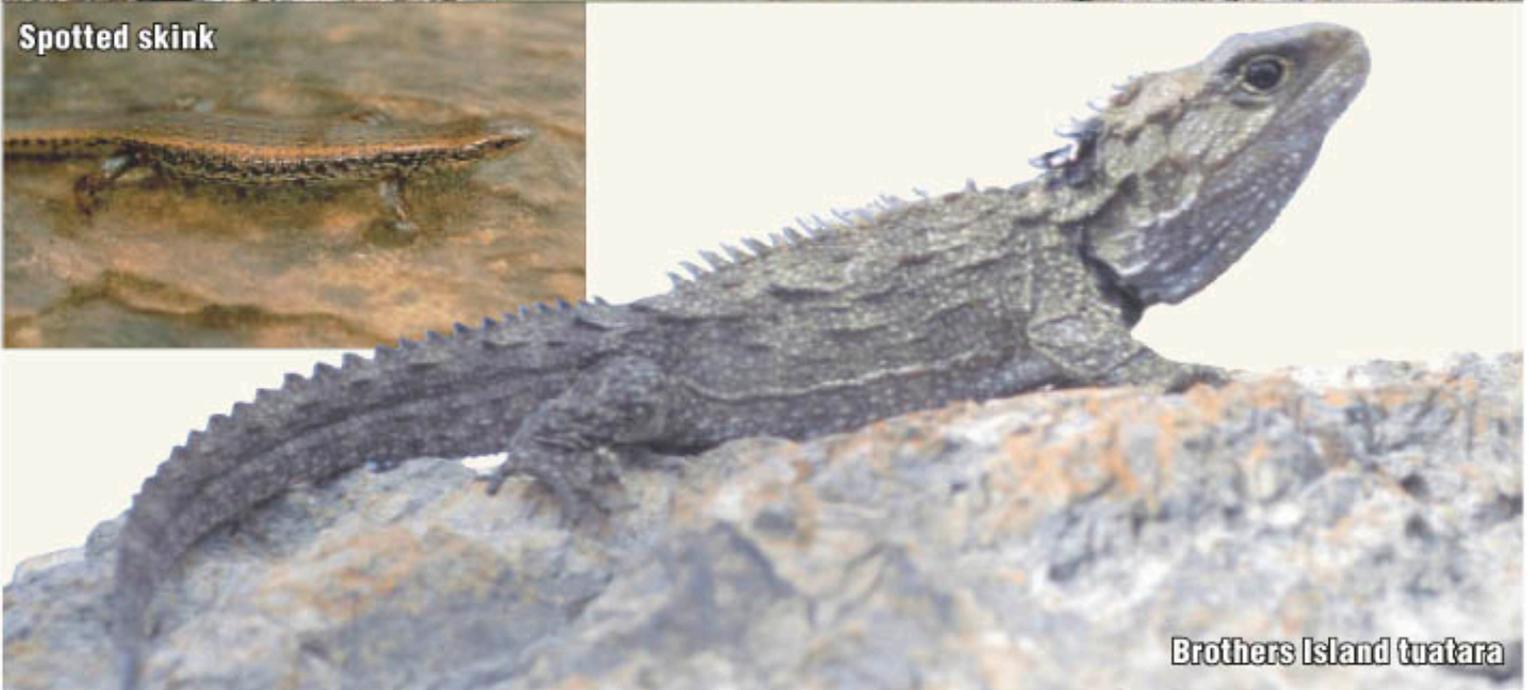
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**Brothers Island tuatara**

# Reptiles

Photos: top left to right:  
C. Roderick, C. R. Veitch,  
Rod Morris;  
middle: Mike Aviss;  
bottom: Brett Robertson.

Tuatara can live safely on Matiu/Somes because it is now rat-free. If rats lived here they would eat the eggs and stop the next generation of tuatara. Tuatara come out of their burrows to feed at night. You may see them warming themselves in the morning sun—this helps these cold-blooded reptiles to digest their food. If you see a tuatara keep well back and be very quiet so that others can enjoy this special moment as well. In the Field Centre you will see a display about the re-introduction of tuatara to the island.

-  **Find out why Brothers Island tuatara were chosen for re-location to Matiu/Somes.**
-  **Study the tuatara scat (faeces) on display.**
-  ***What can you discover about the type of food tuatara eat?***

There are many skinks and geckos around the island. You may see skinks enjoying the sun on a warm day.

-  **Use this card to identify the ones you see.**

## Related activities

As you walk around the island:

-  **Watch out for tuatara scats.**  
*By finding these we know how far the tuatara have spread around the island*
-  **Think about areas that would be good places for tuatara to live.**  
*Please do not leave the tracks or investigate any burrows! Tuatara need a sheltered area to live (often a burrow) and plenty of insects to eat. They are shy - please respect their privacy.*
-  **Look out for bait stations (wooden boxes) near the tracks.**  
*These help island managers to be sure that the island remains rat-free. The bait is not poisonous but if signs of rats are noticed, action can be taken promptly.*

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