

## Supplementary Material

**Appendix S1.** Numbers of Cascade geckos found during surveys conducted throughout the species range. Sites are coded to reduce the risk of illegal collection (see text), with the first two letters indicating the region (SW = South Westland, FL = Fiordland, WO = West Otago). Sites RH(A) and RH(B) are our study sites. Also shown are the number of person-hours (if known) or days spent searching, catch-per-unit effort (CPUE), the focal taxon (gecko, skink or lizard), sampling methods, and survey timing and data source. Where multiple methods were used, the method(s) whereby geckos were detected are indicated using bold text. Unless stated otherwise, search times include the time taken to measure and photograph animals.

<b>Side code</b>	<b>Number of geckos found</b>	<b>Number of person-hours (or days if unknown)</b>	<b>Catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE; number of geckos/person-hour)</b>	<b>Focal taxon</b>	<b>Methods</b>	<b>Survey timing &amp; source</b>
SW-RS	8	31.3	0.26	Gecko	Day searching	Feb 2021; JM unpubl. data
SW-RB	8	40.0	0.20	Gecko	Day searching	Feb 2022; C. Knox, pers. comm.

SW-PC	7	21.0	0.33	Lizard	Not specified	Feb 1999; DOC Herpetofauna
SW-PC	9	(3 days)	n/a	Lizard	<b>Day searching, spotlighting at night</b>	Dec 2003; M. Tocher, pers. comm.; DOC Herpetofauna
SW-PC	3	(2 days)	n/a	Lizard	<b>Day searching, spotlighting at night</b>	Jan 2004; DOC Herpetofauna
SW- RH(A)	17	(3 days)	n/a	Gecko	<b>Day searching, spotlighting at night and funnel trapping</b>	Mar 2008; ML, unpubl. data
SW- RH(A)	38	63.0	0.60	Gecko	<b>Day searching, spotlighting at night</b>	Feb 2018; this study
SW- RH(A)	39	51.7	0.75	Gecko	Day searching	Mar 2018; this study
SW- RH(A)	32	30.7	1.04	Gecko	Day searching	Nov 2018; this study
SW- RH(B)	51	38.9	1.31	Gecko	Day searching	Jan 2019; this study

SW- RH(B)	44	17.9*	2.46	Gecko	Day searching	Dec 2019; this study
SW- RH(B)	61	28.0*	2.18	Gecko	Day searching	Feb 2020; this study
SW-AB	9	18.5	0.49	Gecko	Day searching, <b>spotlighting at night</b> and funnel trapping	Mar 2021; T. Bell, pers. comm.
FL-PL	2	(2 days)	n/a	Skink	<b>Day searching, funnel trapping</b>	Mar 2011; ML unpubl. data
FL-PL	3	~30.0	~0.1	Skink	<b>Day searching</b> , spotlighting at night and funnel trapping	Mar 2007; T. Bell, pers. comm.
FL-PL	2	(3 days)	n/a	Skink	<b>Day searching, funnel trapping</b>	Feb 2008; T. Bell, pers. comm.
WO-TR	5	(3 days)	n/a	Lizard	Day searching	Apr 2022; C. Knox, pers. comm.
FL-HB	1	n/a	n/a	Skink	Day searching	Jan 2019; DOC Herpetofauna

FL-HB	1	n/a	n/a	Skink	Day searching	Jan 2020; DOC Herpetofauna
FL-HB	2	(3 days)	n/a	Skink	Day searching	Feb 2007; Bell et al. 2008
FL-HB	5	~15.0	~0.33	Skink	Day searching	2008; T. Bell, pers. comm.
FL-HB	4	43.0	0.09	Skink	<b>Day searching</b> , funnel trapping, detector dog	T. Jewell, pers. comm.
FL-PC	4	13.5	0.30	Lizard	Day searching	Jan 2010; T. Bell, pers. comm.
FL-PC	6	52.0	0.12	Gecko	Day searching	Dec 2021; C. Knox, pers. comm.

\* Excludes gecko processing (measuring and processing) times.