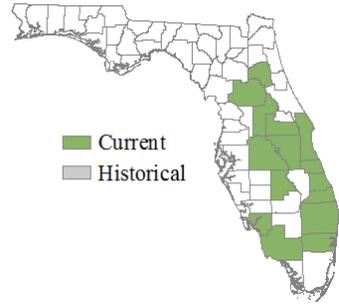


FLORIDA SCRUB LIZARD

Sceloporus woodi

Order: Squamata
Family: Phrynosomatidae
FNAI Ranks: G2G3/S2S3
U.S. Status: none
FL Status: none



Description: A small, spiny, gray to light-brown lizard with a broad, dark brown stripe on each side of body. Head relatively large; body slightly plump. Female has dark zigzag bars across back and a white belly; male has plain back, with black-edged blue patches on throat and each side of belly; young are similar to female. Adults to 5.5 in. (140 mm) total length, 2.5 in. (64 mm) body length excluding tail.

Similar Species: Closely related southern fence lizard (*Sceloporus undulatus*) lacks brown stripes on sides. All other native Florida lizards have smoother, less spiny skin and more slender bodies. Horned lizard (*Phrynosoma*), introduced from western U.S. and possibly surviving in Florida, has very wide body, spines on head, and tail shorter than body.

Habitat: Xeric, fire-maintained communities with deep sands; principally sand pine scrub, but also coastal scrub and sandhill. Prefers open areas and forest edges, where it runs on and buries in surface sand but also climbs tree trunks.

Seasonal Occurrence: Most active spring to fall, inactive in cold weather. Young hatch summer to early fall.

Florida Distribution: Occurs in scrubs on central and coastal ridges. Major centers of distribution include Ocala National Forest (Marion County) and the remaining Lake Wales Ridge scrubs of Polk and Highlands counties. Smaller populations along southeastern Atlantic coast. Very rare and possibly extirpated on southwestern Gulf coast (Lee and Collier counties).

Range-wide Distribution: Same as Florida distribution.

Conservation Status: Occurs on numerous but often fragmented state, federal, and private conservation lands, mostly along Florida's central ridges. Coastal populations less secure, especially on Gulf coast. Much of original habitat destroyed for citrus and development.

Florida Scrub Lizard

Sceloporus woodi

Protection and Management: Management may entail infrequent prescribed fire. Include protection of native scrub as a major management objective of Ocala National Forest.

References: Ashton and Ashton 1991, Bartlett and Bartlett 1999, Conant and Collins 1991, Enge et al. 1986, Jackson 1973, Jackson and Telford 1974, Moler (ed.) 1992.



male © Dale R. Jackson



female © Ray E. Ashton, Jr.