

# Geckos of the Wellington region

## Forest Gecko



A Morrison



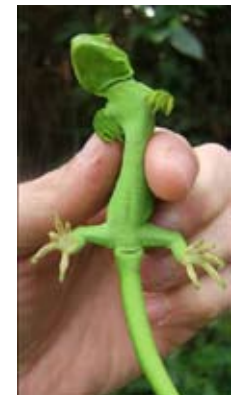
## Common Gecko



A Morrison



## Green Gecko



## Wellington Region: Gecko Identification Card

ID feature	Forest gecko <i>Hoplodactylus</i> 'southern North Island forest gecko'	Common gecko <i>Hoplodactylus maculatus</i>	Green gecko <i>Naultinus elegans punctatus</i>
Maximum SVL (snout-to-vent length) "Vent" = anal opening	89mm	82mm	95mm
Scales on flat upper part of snout noticeably larger than body scales	No	No	Yes
Head	Thin dark V shape on head between the eyes; white bands from eye to ear; much white around mouth edges.		
Inside mouth	Inside of mouth orange or yellow. Tongue yellow sometimes with a pink tip	Inside of mouth and tongue whitish to pale pinkish.	Inside of mouth and tongue dark blue.
Dorsum (the back or posterior side)	Brightly coloured in grey, brown or reddish brown with lots of black and white and sometimes yellowish patches. Pattern is a series of large irregular blotches usually without stripes.	Mainly grey or brown with markings that may include patches of black, white, yellow orange and olive green. Irregular markings usually run across the body but some have longitudinal stripes.	Bright green. Often with large yellow, white or pale green patches on either side along the edge of the back.
Venter (underside or stomach)	Blotched.	Pale usually unspotted.	Pale green.
Tail	Thick and unable to grip well.	Thick and unable to grip well. Often regrown.	Slender and able to grip well. Seldom shed.
Toes	Lightly expanded pads.	Broadly expanded pads.	Narrow and tapering toes without expanded pads.

### References:

- Gill, B.J. & Whitaker, A.H. 2001. New Zealand frogs and reptiles. David Bateman Ltd. Auckland, NZ
- Towns, D.R. 1988. A field guide to the lizards of New Zealand. *New Zealand Wildlife Service Occasional Publication No. 7*
- Photos by Richard Romijn (unless otherwise stated)