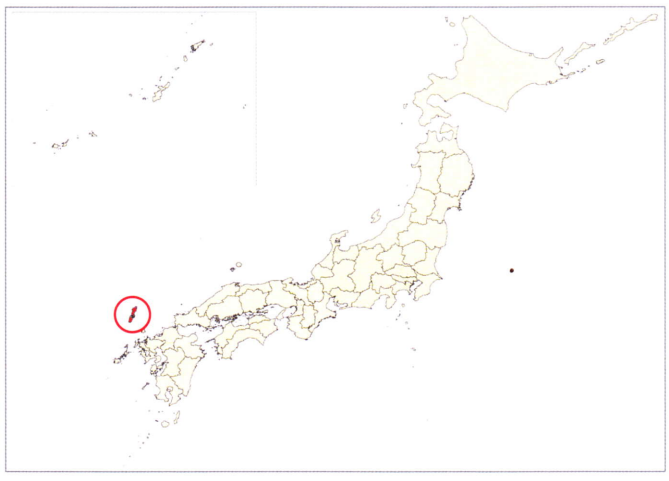


Fig. 566: Amur grass lizard, *Takydromus amurensis*, eggs and hatchling.

as Least Concern with a stable population trend. Populations in Russia, China, and Korea are also considered stable and abundant. While habitat modification and invasive species are general risks for reptiles, there is no specific evidence that these factors are currently impacting this species on Kami-Tsushima Island.

Conservation status
IUCN Red List: LC (Least Concern).
Environment Ministry Red List: NT (Near Threatened).
Prefectural Red Data Book: VU (Vulnerable) in Nagasaki.



Map 147: Distribution of *Takydromus amurensis*.

Takydromus dorsalis Stejneger, 1904

English name: Sakishima grass lizard
Japanese name: サキシマカナヘビ (Sakishima kanahebi)

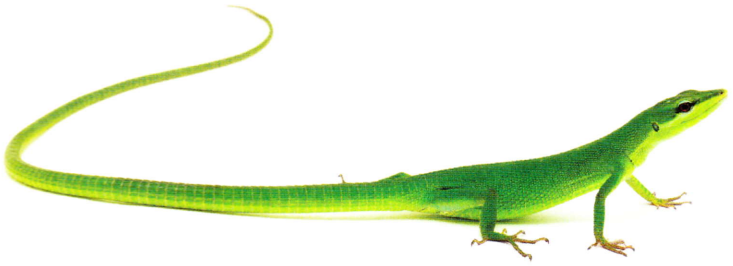
Introductory information
Restricted to the Yaeyama Islands of Okinawa Prefecture, including Ishigaki, Iriomote, Kohama, and Kuro Islands. Endemic to these southernmost islands of Japan, it is easily recognised by its slender body, bright green dorsum, and exceptionally long tail. Its limited range and habitat specialisation make it a key example of Ryūkyū endemism and an important species for regional conservation.

Description
Size: SVL about 60–72 mm. TL 180–250 mm, 300–350% of SVL. ToL abut 240–322 mm.
Femoral pores: Two or three per side.
Colour and pattern: Dorsum bright green. Venter pale green or pale yellow-green.
Lateral band: A narrow blackish-brown stripe from the preocular region across the eye to the anterior edge of the ear opening.

Recognition
Femoral pores two or three per side. The dorsum is bright green without any pattern; supralabials are black. Distribution does not overlap with other Japanese *Takydromus* species.



Fig. 567: Sakishima grass lizard, *Takydromus dorsalis*, in habitat.





Figs. 568–569: Sakishima grass lizards, *Takydromus dorsalis*, adult (left) and juvenile in habitat (right). W. Nakatada (right)

Natural history

Habitat: Floors of subtropical forests, secondary woodlands, fields, mountain trails, and frequently near human habitation such as parks, stone walls and agricultural landscapes near forest edges.
Reproduction: Oviparous. Females likely lay several clutches per season, each containing 1–3 eggs into the soil.
Diet: Primarily insectivorous, feeding on insects and spiders.
Behaviour: Primarily diurnal, terrestrial, and semi-arboreal. More active in the morning. Commonly during the day, it basks on grass, low branches, or tree trunks, or it hides under rocks, logs, or vegetation. Defensive responses include rapid retreat, caudal autotomy, and biting.

Range in Japan

Endemic to Ishigaki, Iriomote, Kuro and Kohama of the Yaeyama Islands in Okinawa Prefecture.

Abundance

Has a patchy distribution within its restricted range. It can be locally common in undisturbed habitats but is declining overall due to habitat loss, fragmentation, and predation by invasive species. In Ishigaki-jima and Iriomote, populations persist mainly in less-developed or protected areas. On smaller islands such as Kohama and Kuroshima, it has become increasingly rare, possibly extirpated from some sites.



Map 148: Distribution of *Takydromus dorsalis*.

Conservation status

IUCN Red List: EN (Endangered).
Environment Ministry Red List: VU (Vulnerable).
Prefectural Red Data Book: LP (Local Population) in Okinawa (Kohama Island and Kuro Island).
Others: Nationally Rare Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; Ishigaki City Designated Rare Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; Taketomi Town Designated Rare Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Takydromus smaragdinus Boulenger, 1887

English name: Green grass lizard
Japanese name: アオカナヘビ (Ao-kanahebi)

Introductory information

Endemic to the Ryūkyū Islands of southern Japan. It occurs from the Tokara Islands (Takara and Kodakara Islands) through the central Ryūkyū Archipelago. This species is readily recognised by its bright emerald dorsal colouration, slender body, and long tail, all adaptatiom to life in subtropical grasslands and thickets. Although common in some localities, its fragmented island distribution and pressures from introduced predators have made several populations vulnerable.

Description

Size: SVL about 50–72 mm. TL 150–240 mm, 300–350% of SVL. ToL about 200–312 mm.
Femoral pores: One per side.
Colour and pattern: Dorsum yellowish-green to green and males have a brown tail. Venter is white to yellowish-white.
Lateral band: A narrow white or yellowish stripe from the snout to the tail base. In males, a broad brown band extends from the preocular area to the tail base. Grass lizards on Tokunoshima are typically uniform yellowish-green.