

WOODLAND SKINKS

Western Australia is rich in small reptile species such as skinks and geckos, and these may still be found in the remnant banksia woodlands on the Coastal Plain, even where these are isolated within built-up areas. Wherever the woodlands retain a native shrub understorey, so that the soil and leaf litter community remains active, there should be enough food to support a population of skinks.

This very handsome animal is one that could be looked for. It is a Western Limestone



Western Limestone *Ctenotus*, *Ctenotus lesueurii*

Ctenotus, *Ctenotus lesueurii*, and was photographed in Kensington Bushland by a member of the 'Friends of Kensington Bushland'. It grows to 10 cm in length and is boldly marked in brown and black

stripes with prominent white spots. Apparently it, along with similar but larger animals, is quite active over summer.

If you live near some banksia woodland, have a look for these animals during daylight hours, and for geckoes (using a spotlight) at dusk and early evening. You might be surprised how many you can discover.

To find out more about Kensington Bushland, visit their website:

www.vicpark.wa.gov.au/
Herbarium