Northern Alligator Lizard

A secretive coastal reptile | *Elgaria coerulea*



LIFE AMONG THE ROCKS

A quiet life *under cover*

A long-bodied lizard slips between warm rocks and native plants. Usually close to shelter, this small predator is part of the varied life of coastal meadows, rocky slopes and woodland edges.

THROUGH THE SEASONS

Becomes active in spring and gives birth to live young, often in late summer in BC.

WHERE IT LIVES

Southern British Columbia, including eastern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, in rocky and partly vegetated habitats.

AN IMPORTANT DEFENCE

A threatened lizard can detach its tail to escape. Never handle or provoke this response.

FIELD NOTES

RECOGNIZE IT

Long body, short limbs, fine scales and a distinctive fold of skin running along each side.

NOT JUST AN OAK SPECIES

Also occupies forests, clearings and other habitats; it does not rely exclusively on Garry Oak.

PROTECT ITS SHELTER

Provincially S5 (Secure, 2025), but rocks, crevices and ground cover still need local protection.

Sources: E-Fauna BC; BC Conservation Data Centre; Canadian Herpetology.