herpy

AGAMAS

Spotted butterfly lizard

Leiolepis guttata

Leiolepis guttata is a ground-dwelling, diurnal agamid from the coastal regions of central and southern Vietnam. It is one of the largest species in the genus, with a total length of up to about 55 cm, has many pale spots on the back and digs burrows. The species is poorly known in captivity and requires a spacious, dry enclosure with a deep, diggable substrate, strong heat and UVB.

Family: Agamidae English name: Spotted Butterfly Lizard Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**40-55 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**8-10 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Savanna**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**150 × 60 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**26-35 °C**
Basking spot	**35-37 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-25 °C**
Humidity	**30-50%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects and plants**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**2-8 eggs**
Incubation	**55-100 days** at 27-33 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Data Deficient (DD)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	There is little knowledge about the care of *Leiolepis guttata*. Temperature, humidity, light and lifespan are therefore based on *Leiolepis belliana*, the best-known species in the genus.
TEMPERATURE	The basking spot should have a surface temperature of 35-37 °C. The air at the warm end is 30-35 °C, and the cool end is 26-29 °C. At night the temperature falls to 20-25 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be 30-50 %, and the enclosure should be dry. The bottom layer of the substrate is kept slightly damp, so the burrows do not collapse, but the surface must not be wet, because that causes mould.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is diurnal and basks in open country, so it needs strong light and UVB. Use a tube or LED of 6,500 K over the whole enclosure and a T5 HO UVB tube of 10-12 % over the basking spot.
FEEDING	*Leiolepis guttata* feeds mainly on plants, but also eats insects. The staple is dark green leaves such as dandelion, cabbage leaves and mustard greens as well as flowers, which are offered every day.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The animal is shy and fast and flees into a burrow when anything moves. It tolerates handling poorly and suits a keeper who wants to watch an animal that digs and basks. The animals can be kept singly or in pairs.
NATIVE RANGE	Vietnam.

The full guide with map and updates: herpy.org/agamer/leiolepis-guttata