herpy

AGAMAS

Eyed butterfly agama

Leiolepis ocellata

Leiolepis ocellata is a ground-dwelling, diurnal agamid from northern Thailand that digs burrows in dry deciduous forest, grassland and fields. It differs from *Leiolepis belliana* in having large, eye-like spots on the back, and the females have a red chin. The species requires an enclosure with a deep, diggable substrate, strong heat and UVB, and in the wild it stays in its burrow during the cool season.

Family: Agamidae English name: Eyed Butterfly Agama Former name: *Leiolepis belliana ocellata* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**35-50 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**45-100 g**
Lifespan	**8-10 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Savanna and dry forest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**120 × 60 × 50 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**26-35 °C**
Basking spot	**35-37 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-25 °C**
Humidity	**40-70%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects and plants**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**3-8 eggs**
Incubation	**55-100 days** at 27-33 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	There is little knowledge about the care of *Leiolepis ocellata*.
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	In the range, humidity varies from about 50 % in the dry season to over 80 % in the rainy season. In the enclosure 40-70 % is suitable.
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 ocellata* is omnivorous and eats insects and young plant shoots. Give crickets, roaches, grasshoppers and mealworms, and offer dark green leaves such as dandelion, cabbage leaves and mustard greens as well as flowers.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The animal is shy and fast and flees into a burrow when anything moves. It tolerates handling poorly. The animals can be kept singly or in pairs. Two males must not be put together, because they fight.
NATIVE RANGE	Thailand and Myanmar (Burma).

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