herpy

AGAMAS

Reeves' butterfly lizard

Leiolepis reevesii

Leiolepis reevesii is a ground-dwelling, diurnal agamid from southern China and South-East Asia that digs burrows in sandy soil and can spread its flank skin like a butterfly. The back has closely set pale spots whose dark edges form a coarse-meshed net. The species grows to about 50 cm, mostly tail, hibernates in winter and requires a dry enclosure with a deep, diggable substrate, strong heat and UVB.

Family: Agamidae English name: Reeves' Butterfly Lizard Former name: *Uromastyx reveesii* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**30-50 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**8-10 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Savanna**
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	**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	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	There is little knowledge about the care of *Leiolepis reevesii*.
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 reevesii* is omnivorous and eats both insects and plants, and plant food is an important part of the diet.
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	China, Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand.

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