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AGAMAS

Reeves' butterfly lizard

Leiolepis rubritaeniata

Leiolepis rubritaeniata is a ground-dwelling, diurnal agamid from Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam that digs burrows in sandy soil and can spread its flank skin like a butterfly. It is kept like the closely related *Leiolepis belliana*: a dry enclosure with a deep, diggable substrate, strong heat and UVB. There is little knowledge about this particular species, so most of the figures are borrowed.

Family: Agamidae English name: Reeves' Butterfly Lizard Former name: *Leiolepis belliana rubritaeniata; Leiolepis reevesii rubritaeniata*
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KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**30-40 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	**3-8 eggs**
Incubation	**55-75 days** at 28-30 °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 rubritaeniata*. The figures in this guide are borrowed from *Leiolepis belliana*, which has the same way of life and lives in the same kind of landscape.

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. Spraying is normally not necessary. The animal needs a bowl of fresh water, large enough to bathe in, and the bowl is filled daily.

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
The genus *Leiolepis* is omnivorous, and *L. rubritaeniata* eats both insects and plants; the proportions are not known for the species.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
The animal is shy and fast and flees into a burrow when anything moves. It tolerates handling poorly. In the genus, a male and a female often share a burrow. The animals can be kept singly or in pairs.

NATIVE RANGE
Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.