herpy

AGAMAS

Thai butterfly lizard

Leiolepis triploida

Leiolepis triploida is a ground-dwelling, diurnal agamid from the Malay Peninsula in which all animals are female. The species has three sets of chromosomes and reproduces by parthenogenesis: the eggs develop without a male, and the hatchlings are genetic copies of the mother. It is large and very long-tailed, digs burrows and requires a dry enclosure with a deep substrate, strong heat and UVB.

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

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**30-45 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 1 adult
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**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-3 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 triploida*. Care is therefore based on *Leiolepis belliana*, the best-known species in the genus. The species is large and very long-tailed, so the enclosure must be spacious.
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	The diet has not been studied for *Leiolepis triploida*. The species of the genus eat both plants and insects, and in several of them plants make up the bulk.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The animal is shy and fast and flees into a burrow when anything moves. It tolerates handling poorly. Because all animals are female, there is no risk of fights between males.
NATIVE RANGE	Thailand and Malaysia.

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