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AGAMAS

Ocellated Spinytail

Uromastyx ocellata

Uromastyx ocellata is a small, compact spiny-tailed lizard from the rocky deserts around the southern part of the Red Sea. The back is adorned with pale eye-spots, and the male is more colourful than the female. The species reaches 25-30 cm, feeds on plants and digs into a deep, dry substrate. It needs a hot, dry enclosure with strong UVB and is easily confused with its closest relatives.

Family: Agamidae Former name: *Uromastyx ocellatus; Aporoscelis princeps* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**25-30 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**15-25 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling, terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Desert, semi-desert and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**120 × 60 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**27-32 °C**
Basking spot	**50-55 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**20-30%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Plants**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**36-60 months**
Clutch size	**4-20 eggs**
Incubation	**60-70 days** at 33-34 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	An adult needs an enclosure of at least 120 × 60 × 60 cm (length × width × height), and bigger is better.
TEMPERATURE	The basking spot should have a surface temperature of 50-55 °C, measured with an infrared thermometer directly under the lamp. The cool side sits at 27-32 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be low, about 20-30%, measured at substrate level on the cool side. Persistently high humidity makes the animal ill, so do not mist the enclosure.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is diurnal and needs strong light. Use an LED lamp or a fluorescent tube of about 6500 K as daylight, separate from the heat; the animals are more active and eat better with it.
FEEDING	*Uromastyx ocellata* is herbivorous. About 90% of the diet should be leafy greens and flowers, about 5% hard vegetables and about 5% dry food.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	Adults are calm and sedentary, but territorial towards conspecifics, especially males towards males. Keep them singly.
NATIVE RANGE	Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti, Ethiopia and Somalia.