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AGAMAS

## Ornate Mastigure

# *Uromastyx ornata*

*Uromastyx ornata* is a small and unusually colourful spiny-tailed lizard from the rocky deserts on both sides of the Red Sea. The male is green, blue and sometimes red with yellow spots on the back. It reaches 30-36 cm, is almost purely herbivorous and digs into a deep substrate. It needs a large, hot, dry enclosure with strong UVB and lives for many years, but it is not a cuddly lizard.

Family: Agamidae  Former name: *Uromastyx philbyi*  Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

### THE ANIMAL

| | |
|---|---|
| Adult size | **30-36 cm**<br>total length incl. tail |
| Lifespan | **15-25 years** |
| Active | **By day** |
| Lifestyle | **Rock-dwelling, terrestrial and burrowing** |
| Habitat | **Desert and rocky terrain** |
| Difficulty | **Intermediate** |

### CARE

| | |
|---|---|
| Min. enclosure | **120 × 60 × 60 cm**<br>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**<br>Ferguson zone 3 |
| Winter rest | **16-22 °C**<br>8-12 weeks |
| Diet | **Plants** |
| Kept | **Singly or in pairs** |

### BREEDING

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|---|---|
| Reproduction | **Egg-laying** |
| Clutch size | **4-20 eggs** |
| Incubation | **60-70 days**<br>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. That is larger than ordinary glass terrariums offer, so choose an enclosure made of wood, PVC or plastic with a glass front.

**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 ornata* 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 other adults, especially males towards males. Keep them singly.

**NATIVE RANGE**

Egypt, Israel, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.