herpy

AGAMAS

Common Agama

Agama agama

Agama agama is a sturdy, diurnal rock agama from the savannas of western and central Africa, known for the dominant male's orange-red head and blue body. The name long covered a whole group of closely related species, so many animals in the trade are other species. It is robust and lively but needs a spacious enclosure, a very hot basking spot and strong UVB.

Family: Agamidae Former name: *Agama colonorum; Agama occipitalis; Agama smithii; Lacerta agama*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**20-30 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Semi-desert, savanna and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**120 × 60 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**24-32 °C**
Basking spot	**38-43 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-21 °C**
Humidity	**30-50%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects and plants**
Kept	**Singly or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**14-24 months**
Clutch size	**5-7 eggs**
Incubation	**56-90 days** at 26-29 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

An adult needs a terrarium of at least 120 × 60 × 60 cm (length × width × height). A male with two or three females needs at least 180 × 60 × 60 cm.

TEMPERATURE

Agama agama needs a clear gradient. The basking spot should have a surface temperature of 38-43 °C, measured with an infrared thermometer. The warm end of the enclosure is 29-32 °C and the cool end 24-27 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Humidity should be 30-50 %. *Agama agama* comes from savanna and scrub, not from true desert, and needs slightly more moisture than the desert species.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Agama agama is diurnal and basks a great deal, so it needs strong light and UVB corresponding to Ferguson zone 3.

FEEDING

Agama agama is first and foremost an insectivore but also takes flowers, seeds, grass and leaves. Give a varied diet of well-fed insects: cockroaches, crickets, grasshoppers and, in smaller quantities, mealworms and superworms.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Agama agama is fast, wary and territorial. The males defend an area, and two males must never be kept together: it ends in serious injuries. A male can be kept with one or more females in a large enclosure.

NATIVE RANGE

Cameroon, Nigeria, Chad, Central African Republic, South Sudan and Sudan.