herpy

AGAMAS

Bibron's Agama

Agama bibronii

Agama bibronii is a medium-sized, diurnal rock agama from Morocco and the neighbouring parts of Algeria and Western Sahara. In the breeding season the male has a coppery orange head and a bluish purple body. The species needs a spacious, dry enclosure, a very warm basking spot, strong UVB and cool nights. Little is known about its care.

Family: Agamidae Former name: *Agama impalearis*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**25-30 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Semi-desert 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	**16-20 °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	**12-24 months**
Clutch size	**5-23 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1-2**
Incubation	**41-67 days** at 28-32 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Agama bibronii*. The species is rare in captivity, but has been bred over several generations.
TEMPERATURE	*A. bibronii* needs a clear gradient. The basking spot should have a surface temperature of 38-43 °C, measured with an infrared thermometer. The rest of the enclosure is 24-32 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be 30-50 %. *Agama bibronii* comes from arid to semi-arid regions, so the enclosure should be dry, with good ventilation. Mist the walls lightly one or two mornings a week; the animal readily drinks droplets.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*A. bibronii* is diurnal and basks all day, so it needs strong light and UVB equivalent to Ferguson zone 3. This is borrowed from *Agama agama*, but suits the open, sunlit habitats of the species.
FEEDING	*Agama bibronii* is primarily an insectivore. Offer a varied diet of well-fed insects: cockroaches, crickets, locusts and, in smaller amounts, mealworms and superworms. Fatty insects such as waxworms are for treats only.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*A. bibronii* is fast, wary and territorial. Males defend an area with threatening postures: they raise the body, bob with the forelimbs, flare the throat and lash with the tail. Never keep two males together.
NATIVE RANGE	Morocco, Western Sahara and Algeria.