herpy

AGAMAS

Ornate Crevice-dragon

Ctenophorus ornatus

Ctenophorus ornatus is a flat, rock-dwelling agamid from the granite outcrops of south-western Australia. The animal reaches up to about 29 cm, has a distinctly banded tail and basks on warm rocks, where it bobs its head. It shelters under granite flakes and in crevices. The species needs a dry enclosure with rockwork, strong heat and UVB, and little is known about the care of this particular species.

Family: Agamidae Former name: *Amphibolurus ornatus; Grammatophora ornatus; Amphibolurus tibialis*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**29 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**1-11 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling**
Habitat	**Semi-desert and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**100 × 50 × 50 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**25-30 °C**
Basking spot	**35-40 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**20-40%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects and plants**
Kept	**In pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**2-4 eggs**
Incubation	**55-80 days** at 28-32 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix III**
EU annex	**Annex C**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

Little is known about the care of *Ctenophorus ornatus*. The figures in this section and the following ones are borrowed from *Ctenophorus pictus* and other species in the genus and adapted to a species that lives on rocks.

TEMPERATURE

The species is a sun-loving rock dweller and needs a large temperature difference. The air in the cool end should be 25-30 °C by day, and the surface of the basking spot, a flat stone under a heat lamp, should be 35-40 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

The humidity should be low, 20-40 %; the figure is an estimate based on the habitat. Keep the enclosure dry and well ventilated, and let only a small part of the sand become damp at the laying site.

LIGHTING AND UVB

A diurnal rock species needs strong light and UVB. Ferguson zone 3 is a good starting point; the zone has not been established for the species.

FEEDING

The species eats insects and other small arthropods; in the enclosure crickets and cockroaches are the staple, with mealworms and silkworms for variety. Feeder animals must not be larger than the width of the animal's head.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

The animal is wary and fast and withdraws into a crevice at the slightest fright. Handling is not necessary and stresses the animal. The male marks his territory with head bobbing and push-ups and defends a rock.

NATIVE RANGE

Australia.