herpy

AGAMAS

Sulawesi Sailfin Lizard

Hydrosaurus microlophus

Hydrosaurus microlophus is a large, semi-aquatic agamid from Sulawesi in Indonesia. The male has a crest on the nape and a tall sail on the tail, and the animal grows to more than a metre long. It basks on branches over the water and throws itself into it when threatened. The species needs a very large, warm and humid enclosure with a deep water section and strong UVB, and its care is based on experience with the genus.

Family: Agamidae Former name: *Istiurus microlophus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**60-120 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**15-25 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and semi-aquatic**
Habitat	**Rainforest and wetland**
Difficulty	**Expert**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**200 × 80 × 150 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**26-32 °C**
Basking spot	**35-45 °C**
Temperature, night	**24-27 °C**
Humidity	**75-90%**
Water	**Aquaterrarium** depth 30-50 cm
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects, fruit, plants and vertebrates**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**2-8 eggs**
Incubation	**60-75 days** at 28-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Not Evaluated (NE)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Hydrosaurus microlophus*.
TEMPERATURE	Keep the air at 26-32 °C during the day. The basking spot above a favourite branch or a high shelf should have a surface temperature of 35-45 °C, measured with an infrared thermometer.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The humidity should be 75-90 %. High humidity is essential for clean shedding, including on the crest, sail and toes. Mist the enclosure at least once a day, or use a fogger or rain system, and keep the substrate evenly damp.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	*Hydrosaurus microlophus* uses the water for swimming, escaping, cooling off and drinking.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is diurnal and basks, so it needs strong light and UVB. Use a powerful UVB tube (T5 HO, 10-12 %) in a reflective fitting covering a large part of the basking area.
FEEDING	The genus is omnivorous, and the diet in the enclosure consists of plants and a moderate amount of animal food.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is nervous and shy. When threatened, it runs, often on its hind legs, down into the water and stays on the bottom until the danger has passed.
NATIVE RANGE	Indonesia.