herpy

AGAMAS

Weber's Sailfin Lizard

Hydrosaurus weberi

Hydrosaurus weberi is a large, semi-aquatic agamid from Halmahera and neighbouring islands in Indonesia. The male has a crest on the nape and a tall sail on the tail, and the animal reaches 60-100 cm. It basks on branches over the water and drops into it when threatened. The species is vulnerable in the wild and needs a very large, warm and humid enclosure with a deep water section and powerful UVB.

Family: Agamidae Former name: *Lophura weberi*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**60-100 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**1,400-2,300 g**
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	**60-70 days** at 28-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Vulnerable (VU)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Hydrosaurus weberi* itself.
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 weberi* uses the water for swimming, fleeing, 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	*Hydrosaurus weberi* 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 in danger it runs, often on its hind legs, down into the water and stays on the bottom until the danger has passed.
NATIVE RANGE	Indonesia.