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AGAMAS

Roughtail Rock Agama

Laudakia stellio

Laudakia stellio is a sturdy, spiny rock agama from the eastern Mediterranean, grey to brown with pale, star-shaped spots and a tail in distinct rings. It is diurnal, a good climber, eats both insects and plants and grows to 30-35 cm. It needs a dry enclosure with a very hot basking spot, UVB and plenty of stones to hide in.

Family: Agamidae Former name: *Stellagama stellio; Agama stellio; Stellio stellio*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**30-35 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal, rock-dwelling and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Semi-desert and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**100 × 50 × 50 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**21-30 °C**
Basking spot	**40-46 °C**
Temperature, night	**17-20 °C**
Humidity	**15-35%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects and plants**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**4-10 eggs**
Incubation	**60-90 days** at 26-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	An adult animal needs an enclosure of at least 100 × 50 × 50 cm (length × width × height). A pair or a male with a couple of females needs at least 120 × 60 × 60 cm.
TEMPERATURE	*Laudakia stellio* needs a clear gradient. The basking stone should have a surface temperature of 40-46 °C, measured with an infrared thermometer, while the cool end is at 21-29 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Daytime humidity should be 15-35 %. Mist the walls lightly in the morning, so that the animal can drink droplets, because agamas prefer to drink droplets rather than from a dish.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Laudakia stellio* is diurnal and basks a lot, so it needs strong light and UVB corresponding to Ferguson zone 3. Use a T5 HO tube of 10-12 % in a reflective fixture on the same side as the heat lamp.
FEEDING	*Laudakia stellio* is omnivorous, but insects make up the largest part of the diet.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Laudakia stellio* is shy and fast, but usually tolerates calm handling. Never pick the animal up from above; lift it from below, and support the body and legs.
NATIVE RANGE	Greece and Turkey.