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AGAMAS

## Eyed butterfly agama

# *Leiolepis ocellata*

*Leiolepis ocellata* is a ground-dwelling, diurnal agamid from northern Thailand that digs burrows in dry deciduous forest, grassland and fields. It differs from *Leiolepis belliana* in having large, eye-like spots on the back, and the females have a red chin. The species requires an enclosure with a deep, diggable substrate, strong heat and UVB, and in the wild it stays in its burrow during the cool season.

Family: Agamidae  English name: Eyed Butterfly Agama  Former name: *Leiolepis belliana ocellata*

KEY FACTS

### THE ANIMAL

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| Adult size | **35-50 cm**<br>total length incl. tail |
| Weight | **45-100 g** |
| Lifespan | **8-10 years** |
| Active | **By day** |
| Lifestyle | **Terrestrial and burrowing** |
| Habitat | **Savanna and dry forest** |
| Difficulty | **Intermediate** |

### CARE

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|---|---|
| Min. enclosure | **120 × 60 × 50 cm**<br>L × W × H for 2 adults |
| Temperature, day | **26-35 °C** |
| Basking spot | **35-37 °C** |
| Temperature, night | **20-25 °C** |
| Humidity | **40-70%** |
| Water | **Water dish** |
| UVB | **Essential**<br>Ferguson zone 3 |
| Diet | **Insects and plants** |
| Kept | **Singly or in pairs** |

### BREEDING

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| Reproduction | **Egg-laying** |
| Clutch size | **3-8 eggs** |
| Incubation | **55-100 days**<br>at 27-33 °C |

### PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

## Care at a glance

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| THE ENCLOSURE | There is little knowledge about the care of *Leiolepis ocellata*. |
| TEMPERATURE | The basking spot should have a surface temperature of 35-37 °C. The air at the warm end is 30-35 °C, and the cool end is 26-29 °C. At night the temperature falls to 20-25 °C. |
| HUMIDITY AND WATER | In the range, humidity varies from about 50 % in the dry season to over 80 % in the rainy season. In the enclosure 40-70 % is suitable. |
| LIGHTING AND UVB | The species is diurnal and basks in open country, so it needs strong light and UVB. Use a tube or LED of 6,500 K over the whole enclosure and a T5 HO UVB tube of 10-12 % over the basking spot. |
| FEEDING | *Leiolepis ocellata* is omnivorous and eats insects and young plant shoots. Give crickets, roaches, grasshoppers and mealworms, and offer dark green leaves such as dandelion, cabbage leaves and mustard greens as well as flowers. |
| BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING | The animal is shy and fast and flees into a burrow when anything moves. It tolerates handling poorly. The animals can be kept singly or in pairs. Two males must not be put together, because they fight. |
| NATIVE RANGE | Thailand and Myanmar (Burma). |