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ANGUIDS

Campbell's Alligator Lizard

Abronia campbelli

Abronia campbelli is a small, arboreal alligator lizard found only in the oak forests of south-eastern Guatemala. It grows to about 20-30 cm, gives birth to live young and feeds on insects. The species is critically endangered in the wild, and almost nothing is known about its care; it needs a tall, airy enclosure with cool nights.

Family: Anguidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**20-30 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**14-45 g**
Lifespan	**10-20 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Montane forest**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**50 × 50 × 75 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**20-27 °C**
Basking spot	**26-30 °C**
Temperature, night	**10-18 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
Water	**No water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Sexually mature	**24-36 months**
Litter size	**3-15 young**
Clutches per year	**1**
Gestation	**180-240 days**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix I**
EU annex	**Annex A**
IUCN	**Critically Endangered (CR)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

Care of *Abronia campbelli* has not been described, and the figures here are borrowed from the closely related *Abronia graminea*, the best-known species in the genus, and from the genus in general.

TEMPERATURE

Abronia campbelli does not tolerate heat. The daytime temperature should be 20-27 °C, and the basking spot under a weak spotlight may be 26-30 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

The relative humidity should be 60-80 %, with the highest values at night and after misting. Mist plants, walls and the animal lightly almost every day, preferably with a pressure sprayer or a fogger that produces a fine mist.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is diurnal and needs UVB. The best is natural, unfiltered sunlight, for example in a mesh cage outdoors in dry weather in summer with shade and a cool floor, so the animal can move about.

FEEDING

Abronia campbelli feeds on insects and other small animals. Give crickets, grasshoppers, mealworms, cockroaches, snails, spiders and soft larvae. Feeder insects are fed greens and vegetables for a day before use.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

The species is quiet and shy. The animal spends most of the day sitting still on a branch or in a bromeliad and basks for short periods. It is not an animal to be handled.

NATIVE RANGE

Guatemala.