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ANGUIDS

Banded Arboreal Alligator Lizard

Abronia taeniata

Abronia taeniata is an arboreal alligator lizard with distinct dark crossbands from the mountain forests of eastern Mexico. It reaches about 25-35 cm, gives birth to live young and eats insects. It needs a tall, airy enclosure with moss and bromeliads and cool temperatures. The species is Vulnerable in the wild and is best suited to experienced keepers.

Family: Anguidae Former name: *Gerrhonotus taeniatus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**25-35 cm** total length incl. tail
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 2 adults
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 or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Sexually mature	**24-36 months**
Litter size	**3-10 young**
Clutches per year	**1**
Gestation	**180-240 days**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Vulnerable (VU)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

Care of *Abronia taeniata* is only sparsely documented, and the figures given here are borrowed from the closely related *Abronia graminea*, which is the best-known species in the genus.

TEMPERATURE

Abronia taeniata does not tolerate heat. The daytime temperature should be 20-27 °C, and the basking spot under a weak spotlight may reach 26-30 °C. The animal is most active at 24-27 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

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

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is diurnal and needs UVB. The best option is natural, unfiltered sunlight, for example in an outdoor mesh cage in dry weather in summer, with shade and a cool surface so that the animal can move away.

FEEDING

Abronia taeniata feeds on insects and other small animals. Offer crickets, grasshoppers, mealworms, cockroaches, snails, spiders and soft larvae, for example green caterpillars and fly larvae with a high calcium content.

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

Mexico.