herpy

ANGUIDS

Imbricate Alligator Lizard

Barisia imbricata

Barisia imbricata is a sturdy, diurnal alligator lizard from the cool mountain forests and grasslands of Mexico's central highlands, often at 2,500-3,500 m. It grows to 25-35 cm; the male is uniformly brown or green, and the female has pale crossbands. The species gives birth to 7-16 live young. Husbandry is only sparsely described, so this guide is based on the species' climate and on the close relative *Gerrhonotus infernalis*.

Family: Anguidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**25-35 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Montane forest and temperate woodland and meadow**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**90 × 60 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**20-25 °C**
Basking spot	**30-34 °C**
Temperature, night	**8-14 °C**
Humidity	**40-70%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Litter size	**7-16 young**
Clutches per year	**1**
Gestation	**190-215 days**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about keeping *Barisia imbricata*. The species lives in a cool highland with mild days, cold nights and rain in summer.
TEMPERATURE	During the day the air in the enclosure should be 20-25 °C, with a basking spot of 30-34 °C under a halogen spot, where the animal can warm up to about 28 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be moderate, around 40-70 %, with higher humidity in the hides. The figure is borrowed from *G. infernalis*.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is diurnal and needs strong light and UVB. Use a T5 HO tube so that the UV index runs from 0 to 3 through the enclosure, corresponding to Ferguson zone 2, and so the animal can move out of the UV light.
FEEDING	*Barisia imbricata* feeds on insects and other small animals and hunts actively. Offer a varied diet of crickets, cockroaches, grasshoppers, mealworms, waxworms, stick insects, woodlice, snails, spiders and fly larvae.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is shy, but can become calm in time. It basks on rocks and grass tussocks and hunts by stalking its prey. A frightened animal bites hard, and a bite can hurt, so handle the animal only when necessary.
NATIVE RANGE	Mexico.