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ANGUIDS

Iberian Worm Lizard

Blanus cinereus

Blanus cinereus is a limbless worm lizard from the Iberian Peninsula that lives its whole life underground, in loose, humus-rich soil and under stones. The animal is 15-25 cm from snout to vent and has a ringed body, a rounded snout and almost blind eyes. The species lays 1-2 eggs a year and needs a deep, slightly damp substrate, even warmth from below and peace. Little is known about its care.

Family: Blanidae Former name: *Amphisbaena cinerea; Blanus mariae*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**15-25 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Burrowing**
Habitat	**Temperate woodland and meadow**
Difficulty	**Expert**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**40 × 30 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**20-24 °C**
Temperature, night	**15-20 °C**
Humidity	**50-70%**
Water	**No water dish**
UVB	**Not required**
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-3 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1**
Incubation	**60-90 days** at 22-26 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Blanus cinereus*.
TEMPERATURE	The animals warm themselves by lying buried in heated soil, not in the heat of a lamp. The substrate should be 20-24 °C by day, slightly warmer at one end than at the other.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	It is the humidity of the substrate that counts, not that of the air. The substrate should be slightly to moderately damp, not wet: it should hold its shape when squeezed in the hand, without sticking or dripping.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The animals lie buried and are not seen in the light. UVB is not necessary.
FEEDING	*Blanus cinereus* eats insects and insect larvae. Mealworm pupae and larvae and small, freshly killed crickets, dusted with a multivitamin powder, are suitable food. Place food under the tile three times a week.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Blanus cinereus* is rarely seen. The animals lie buried and come out only under the tile. This is normal. Do not dig for the animals to check on them: stress makes them move less and use a smaller area.
NATIVE RANGE	Spain, Portugal and Gibraltar.