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ANGUIDS

Texas Alligator Lizard

Gerrhonotus infernalis

Gerrhonotus infernalis is a robust, brownish alligator lizard with pale crossbands from limestone canyons and oak woodland in central Texas and northern and central Mexico. It grows to 30-60 cm, is diurnal, climbs well and lays many eggs. It is hardy and forgiving to keep, but is rarely seen in the trade.

Family: Anguidae Former name: *Gerrhonotus liocephalus infernalis; Gerrhonotus taylori*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**30-60 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rocky terrain and temperate woodland and meadow**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**90 × 60 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**25-29 °C**
Basking spot	**38-42 °C**
Temperature, night	**15-21 °C**
Humidity	**40-70%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**18-48 months**
Clutch size	**5-31 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1**
Incubation	**48-70 days** at 24-26 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	*Gerrhonotus infernalis* is relatively calm and needs less space than more active lizards of the same size. It is hardy and tolerates a fair amount of deviation in care.
TEMPERATURE	The air in the enclosure should be 25-29 °C by day, with a basking spot of 38-42 °C under halogen spotlights, where the animal can warm up. At night it should be cooler, about 15-21 °C. Measure with digital thermometers.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The humidity should be moderate, about 40-70 %, with higher humidity in the hides. Mist the enclosure three to four times a week in summer, so that the rainy season is imitated, and less often in the dry season.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is diurnal and needs strong light and UVB. Use a T5 HO tube for UVB, so that the UV index runs from 0 to 3 through the enclosure, corresponding to Ferguson zone 2, and so that the animal can move out of the UV light.
FEEDING	*Gerrhonotus infernalis* lives on insects and other small animals and hunts actively.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is shy but curious and can become very calm and trusting towards its keeper. It basks on branches and stones and hunts by sneaking up on the prey, bending the forebody into an S shape and striking.
NATIVE RANGE	United States and Mexico.