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ANGUIDS

Wiegmann's Alligator Lizard

Gerrhonotus liocephalus

Gerrhonotus liocephalus is a sturdy, brownish alligator lizard with pale crossbands, found in forest and scrub in the highlands of southern Mexico. It grows to 30-50 cm, is active by day, climbs well and lays eggs. Little is known about the care of this particular species, and most of what follows is based on its close relative *Gerrhonotus infernalis* from Texas and north-eastern Mexico.

Family: Anguidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**30-50 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Montane forest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**90 × 60 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-29 °C**
Basking spot	**35-40 °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	**18-36 months**
Clutch size	**5-31 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1**
Incubation	**50-70 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	Little is known about the care of *Gerrhonotus liocephalus*.
TEMPERATURE	The air in the enclosure should be 24-29 °C by day, with a basking spot of 35-40 °C under halogen spots where the animal can warm up. At night it should be cooler, around 15-21 °C. Measure with digital thermometers.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be moderate, around 40-70 %, with higher humidity in the hides. The figure is an estimate based on the climate.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is active by day and needs strong light and UVB.
FEEDING	*Gerrhonotus liocephalus* feeds on insects and other small animals and hunts actively.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is shy but curious and can become very calm. It basks on branches and stones and hunts by creeping up on its prey, bending the front of the body into an S-shape and striking.
NATIVE RANGE	Mexico.