herpy

ANGUIDS

Checkerboard Worm Lizard

Trogonophis wiegmanni

Trogonophis wiegmanni is a small, legless worm lizard from Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia that spends its whole life buried in sandy soil and under stones. The animal is 12-18 cm from snout to vent, has a short, conical tail and a chequerboard pattern. The species gives birth to live young and needs a deep, slightly moist substrate, even warmth from below and peace and quiet. Little is known about its husbandry.

Family: Trogonophidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**12-18 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Burrowing**
Habitat	**Semi-desert and temperate woodland and meadow**
Difficulty	**Expert**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**40 × 30 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**20-25 °C**
Temperature, night	**15-20 °C**
Humidity	**50-70%**
Water	**No water dish**
UVB	**Not required**
Diet	**Insects and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Sexually mature	**30 months**
Litter size	**2-5 young**
Clutches per year	**1**
Gestation	**120-150 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 the husbandry of *Trogonophis wiegmanni*.
TEMPERATURE	The animals warm themselves by lying buried in heated soil, not in the warmth of a lamp.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	It is the moisture of the substrate that counts, not that of the air. The substrate should be slightly moist all the way down: it should hold its shape when pressed in the hand, but not drip.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The animals lie buried and are not seen in the light. UVB is not necessary.
FEEDING	*Trogonophis wiegmanni* is a carnivore that eats insects and other small, soil-dwelling invertebrates. In the wild, insect larvae and snails are the preferred prey, while ants and woodlice are almost ignored.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Trogonophis wiegmanni* is seldom seen. The animals lie buried and emerge only under the tile. This is normal. Do not dig for the animals to check on them, because disturbance and stress make them less active.
NATIVE RANGE	Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia.