herpy

CAECILIANS

Gaboon Caecilian

Geotrypetes seraphini

Geotrypetes seraphini is a medium-sized, limbless, burrowing amphibian from West and Central Africa. It lives down in the soil, eats mostly earthworms and gives birth to live young without depending on water. The species is kept in a deep, moist substrate, and little is known about its care.

Family: Dermophiidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**24-40 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**7-26 g**
Lifespan	**4-5 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Burrowing**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Skin toxins	**None known**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**50 × 30 × 35 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**22-26 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-23 °C**
Humidity	**90-100%**
Water	**No water dish**
UVB	**Not required**
Diet	**Insects and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Development	**Live-bearing**
Litter size	**3-4 young**
Parental care	**None**

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 *Geotrypetes seraphini*, but the species is kept and bred in captivity.
TEMPERATURE	Keep 22-26 °C by day and 20-23 °C at night. The temperature must be stable and vary by no more than about 3 °C; rapid and large fluctuations are poorly tolerated.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	The substrate must be evenly moist, but not so wet that water can be squeezed out of a handful, and there must never be standing water at the bottom of the box. The air in the box is practically saturated (90-100 %).
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	There should be no water bowl. The animal gets water from the moist substrate and from condensation on the walls of the box, and a water bowl easily makes the substrate too wet. The water is used only to moisten the substrate.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species lives underground and does not need UVB or any special lighting. An ordinary day-night rhythm in the room with 10-14 hours of light is enough. The box should not stand in direct sunlight.
FEEDING	Earthworms are the staple food and are taken by almost all terrestrial caecilians. Use small to medium earthworms, such as compost worms, and cut them into pieces for juveniles. Put 10-15 worms in the box every other week.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Geotrypetes seraphini* lives hidden and spends almost all of its time buried.
NATIVE RANGE	Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Congo - Kinshasa.