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CAECILIANS

Central American Caecilian

Gymnopis multiplicata

Gymnopis multiplicata is a limbless, burrowing caecilian from Central America that lives shallowly in damp soil and leaf litter from Honduras to Panama. The female gives birth to live, fully developed young, and the animals come to the surface at dusk and dawn, especially in light rain. The species has hardly been studied in captivity, so the care advice is based on experience with terrestrial caecilians.

Family: Dermophiidae Former name: *Siphonops proximus; Siphonops simus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**25-40 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Burrowing**
Habitat	**Dry forest, rainforest and montane forest**
Skin toxins	**None known**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Development	**Live-bearing**
Litter size	**1-16 young**
Parental care	**None**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 40 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**22-25 °C**
Temperature, night	**21-23 °C**
Humidity	**90-100%**
Water	**No water dish**
UVB	**Not required**
Diet	**Insects and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
The care advice is based on experience with terrestrial caecilians, especially *Dermophis mexicanus*, because *G. multiplicata* has not been studied systematically in captivity.

TEMPERATURE
The species is kept stably warm: 22-25 °C by day and 21-23 °C at night. Fluctuations of more than about 3 °C and rapid changes are poorly tolerated.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING
The air in the box is almost saturated, 90-100 %, because the soil is damp. Moisture is maintained by misting the soil and occasionally turning over the top few centimetres.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY
The species does not need a water bowl or an aquatic section. Moisture comes from the soil, and condensation on the walls of the box is enough to drink from. A water bowl can, on the contrary, make the soil too wet.

LIGHTING AND UVB
The species lives underground, and a particular lighting schedule is not necessary. The normal day-night rhythm of the room, with 10-14 hours of light, is enough.

FEEDING
Earthworms are the staple food and are taken by almost all terrestrial caecilians. Small to medium earthworms are suitable, and an adult is given 10-15 worms every other week.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
G. multiplicata spends almost all its time underground; a healthy animal lies buried about 95 % of the time. The species is usually kept singly, so that condition and growth are easy to follow.

NATIVE RANGE
Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras and Panama.