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CAECILIANS

Ringed Caecilian

Siphonops annulatus

Siphonops annulatus is a blue-black, burrowing caecilian with white rings from South America east of the Andes. The female lays eggs in the soil and tends the young for about three months: they eat the outer layer of her skin and drink a fat-rich fluid from her cloaca. Little is known about the care of the species.

Family: Siphonopidae **Mild skin toxins**

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**29-45 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Burrowing**
Habitat	**Savanna and rainforest**
Skin toxins	**Mild** Wash your hands after contact and keep your fingers away from your eyes and mouth
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 40 × 45 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 or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Direct development (no larvae)**
Egg-laying site	**On the ground**
Eggs per season	**5-16**
Clutches per year	**1**
Hatching	**30-60 days**
Parental care	**Guards the eggs**

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 *Siphonops annulatus*. The care is based on experience with terrestrial caecilians of the same size that are kept in the same way, including *Dermophis mexicanus* and *Geotrypetes seraphini*.

TEMPERATURE
Keep 22-25 °C by day and 21-23 °C at night. The temperature must be stable and vary by no more than about 3 °C; rapid and large swings are poorly tolerated.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING
The substrate should be evenly damp, but not so wet that you can squeeze water out of a handful, and there must never be standing water at the bottom of the box. The air in the box is as good as saturated with moisture (90-100 %).

WATER AND WATER QUALITY
There should be no water bowl. The animal gets water from the damp substrate and from condensation on the walls of the box, and a water bowl easily makes the substrate too wet. Water is used only to moisten the substrate.

LIGHTING AND UVB
The species lives underground and does not need UVB or special lighting. An ordinary daily rhythm in the room with 10-14 hours of light is enough. The box should not stand in direct sun.

FEEDING
Earthworms are the staple and are taken by almost all terrestrial caecilians. Use small to medium earthworms, e.g. compost worms, and cut them into pieces for juveniles. Put 10-15 worms in the box every other week.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
Siphonops annulatus lives hidden and spends almost all its time buried.

NATIVE RANGE
Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela.