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IGUANAS

Blue Spiny Lizard

Sceloporus cyanogenys

Sceloporus cyanogenys is a stocky, rough-scaled lizard from rocky country in southern Texas and eastern Mexico. The male has a blue throat, blue sides and a black collar. The species is diurnal, feeds on insects and needs a roomy, dry enclosure with rocks, UVB and a hot basking spot. It gives birth to live young and is shy and fast.

Family: Phrynosomatidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**25-36 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-7 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Semi-desert and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**100 × 50 × 50 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**27-31 °C**
Basking spot	**38-42 °C**
Temperature, night	**21-26 °C**
Humidity	**30-50%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Sexually mature	**28-36 months**
Litter size	**5-20 young**
Clutches per year	**1**
Gestation	**90-120 days**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Not Evaluated (NE)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	An adult needs an enclosure of at least 100 × 50 × 50 cm (length × width × height).
TEMPERATURE	The enclosure should have a clear gradient. The air should be 27-31 °C during the day, and the basking spot should be 38-42 °C on the surface, measured with an infrared thermometer.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The air should be dry to moderately humid: 30-50 %. The species does poorly in humid, stagnant air, so ventilation should be good. Provide a low, stable bowl of fresh water, and change the water daily.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Sceloporus cyanogenys* is diurnal and basks in full sun, so it needs strong light and UVB. Use a T5 HO tube (Ferguson zone 3) in a reflector over the basking spot, and keep the distance within the manufacturer's recommendation.
FEEDING	*Sceloporus cyanogenys* eats insects. Give a varied diet of live insects: crickets, small cockroaches, mealworms, morio worms, silkworms and waxworms (the last sparingly).
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The animal is fast and shy and defends itself by biting and fleeing. It is an animal to look at, not to handle. If it has to be picked up, hold the body from neck to vent.
NATIVE RANGE	United States, Mexico and Guatemala.