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IGUANAS

Yarrow's Spiny Lizard

Sceloporus jarrovii

Sceloporus jarrovii is a sturdy, rough-scaled lizard from mountain forests and rocky terrain in the south-western USA and northern Mexico. The male has a blue throat and blue belly, and both sexes have a black collar with a white edge. The species is diurnal, feeds on insects and requires a dry, well-ventilated enclosure with rocks, UVB, a hot basking spot and a cool winter rest. It gives birth to live young.

Family: Phrynosomatidae Former name: *Sceloporus jarrovi*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**15-25 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**4-7 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling**
Habitat	**Montane forest and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**90 × 45 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**26-28 °C**
Basking spot	**35-40 °C**
Temperature, night	**16-20 °C**
Humidity	**30-50%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Winter rest	**8-12 °C** 8-12 weeks
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Litter size	**2-14 young**
Clutches per year	**1**
Gestation	**180-240 days**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	There is only limited detailed knowledge about the care of *Sceloporus jarrovii*, and the recommendations here are based on the species' mountain climate and on close relatives.
TEMPERATURE	The enclosure needs a clear gradient. The air should be 26-28 °C by day, and the basking spot should be 35-40 °C at 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, still air, so ventilation must be good. Provide a shallow, stable dish of fresh water, and change the water daily.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Sceloporus jarrovii* is diurnal and basks in strong light, so it needs powerful lighting and UVB.
FEEDING	*Sceloporus jarrovii* is a sit-and-wait hunter that eats beetles, grasshoppers, ants, wasps, caterpillars and spiders.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The animal is fast and alert and defends itself by fleeing and biting. It is an animal to watch, not to handle. If it has to be picked up, hold the body from neck to vent.
NATIVE RANGE	United States and Mexico.