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IGUANAS

## Granite Spiny Lizard

# *Sceloporus orcutti*

*Sceloporus orcutti* is a stout, dark rock lizard from southern California and Baja California. The male has a blue throat and belly, yellow and blue-green scales on the back and a broad violet stripe along the back. The species is diurnal, wary and fast, basks on granite boulders, feeds on insects and lays eggs. It needs a dry enclosure with crevices in stone, UVB and a hot basking spot.

Family: Phrynosomatidae  Former name: *Sceloporus digueti*

**KEY FACTS**

### THE ANIMAL

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|---|---|
| Adult size | **18-28 cm**<br>total length incl. tail |
| Lifespan | **5-8 years** |
| Active | **By day** |
| Lifestyle | **Rock-dwelling** |
| Habitat | **Semi-desert and rocky terrain** |
| Difficulty | **Intermediate** |

### CARE

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|---|---|
| Min. enclosure | **100 × 50 × 50 cm**<br>L × W × H for 1 adult |
| Temperature, day | **27-30 °C** |
| Basking spot | **38-42 °C** |
| Temperature, night | **16-22 °C** |
| Humidity | **30-50%** |
| Water | **Water dish** |
| UVB | **Essential**<br>Ferguson zone 3 |
| Winter rest | **9-12 °C**<br>8-12 weeks |
| Diet | **Insects** |
| Kept | **Singly, in pairs or one male with several females** |

### BREEDING

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|---|---|
| Reproduction | **Egg-laying** |
| Clutch size | **6-15 eggs** |
| Incubation | **60-80 days**<br>at 27-30 °C |

### PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

## Care at a glance

**THE ENCLOSURE**

Little detailed knowledge exists about the care of *Sceloporus orcutti*, and the recommendations here are based on the species' habitat and on the genus.

**TEMPERATURE**

By day the air should be 27-30 °C, and the basking spot should be 38-42 °C at the surface, measured with an infrared thermometer. Place the heat over a flat stone: the species lies flat against the heated stone to warm up quickly.

**HUMIDITY AND WATER**

The air should be dry to moderately humid: 30-50%. Ventilation must be good. Provide an easily accessible water dish, and change the water regularly.

**LIGHTING AND UVB**

*S. orcutti* is diurnal and heat-seeking and basks in bright light, so it needs strong lighting and UVB. Use a UVB tube in Ferguson zone 3 over the basking spot.

**FEEDING**

*Sceloporus orcutti* eats small invertebrates, occasionally small lizards and a little fruit and flowers. In the enclosure it gets insects: crickets, small roaches, mealworms, superworm larvae, silkworms and the occasional waxworm.

**BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING**

*Sceloporus orcutti* is wary, fast and territorial. The male shows his blue throat and belly with push-ups, both to other males and to females.

**NATIVE RANGE**

United States and Mexico.