herpy

IGUANAS

Crevice Spiny Lizard

Sceloporus poinsettii

Sceloporus poinsettii is a robust, rough-scaled rock lizard from southern New Mexico, Texas and northern Mexico. It is greyish brown with a black collar and black bands on the tail, and the male has blue patches on the belly. The species is diurnal, shy and fast, feeds on insects and needs a dry enclosure with crevices in rock, UVB and a hot basking spot. It gives birth to live young.

Family: Phrynosomatidae Former name: *Sceloporus poinsetti*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**15-30 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**4-8 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling**
Habitat	**Semi-desert and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**100 × 50 × 50 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**26-30 °C**
Basking spot	**35-40 °C**
Temperature, night	**15-20 °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	**2-11 young**
Clutches per year	**1**
Gestation	**60-120 days**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	There is little knowledge about the husbandry of *Sceloporus poinsettii*, and the recommendations are based on the species' habitat and on better-known relatives.
TEMPERATURE	The enclosure needs a clear gradient. The air should be 26-30 °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, stagnant air, so ventilation must be good. Provide a low, stable dish of fresh water, and change the water daily.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Sceloporus poinsettii* is diurnal and basks in strong light, so it needs bright lighting and UVB.
FEEDING	*Sceloporus poinsettii* eats insects and other small arthropods, especially beetles and spiders, and occasionally takes a little soft plant material.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The animal is shy, nervous and very fast and defends itself by fleeing into crevices. It is an animal to watch, not to handle, and it is hard to get out again once it has retreated into a crevice.
NATIVE RANGE	United States and Mexico.