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LACERTIDS

Fringe-fingered Lizard

Acanthodactylus erythrurus

Acanthodactylus erythrurus is a fast, slender lizard from Iberia and north-western Africa with long, fringed toes, brown and grey markings and a reddish tail in juveniles and in females during the breeding season. It reaches 18-23 cm, feeds on insects and needs a deep sand substrate, strong sunlight and high heat.

Family: Lacertidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**18-23 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-8 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Semi-desert and temperate woodland and meadow**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**100 × 50 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**25-35 °C**
Basking spot	**40-45 °C**
Temperature, night	**15-22 °C**
Humidity	**30-50%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 3
Winter rest	**10-15 °C** 8-12 weeks
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**In pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**10-18 months**
Clutch size	**1-8 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1-2**
Incubation	**35-60 days** at 25-30 °C

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 *Acanthodactylus erythrurus*.
TEMPERATURE	*Acanthodactylus erythrurus* is very fond of heat: active adults in the wild maintain a body temperature of 32-38 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be 30-50 %, as in the dry, open habitat. The sand should be dry, and only the sand in the laying box is kept damp, while the rest of the enclosure is kept well ventilated.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Acanthodactylus erythrurus* is diurnal and basks a great deal, so the enclosure needs strong light and UVB.
FEEDING	*Acanthodactylus erythrurus* eats insects and other small arthropods, in the wild especially ants.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Acanthodactylus erythrurus* is fast, wary and shy. It buries itself in the sand when in danger and is hard to catch. Avoid grabbing the animal; the tail is shed under stress. Males are territorial and fight over space.
NATIVE RANGE	Spain, Portugal, Gibraltar, Morocco and Algeria.