herpy

LACERTIDS

Amazon Racerunner

Ameiva ameiva

Ameiva ameiva is a large, fast, diurnal teiid from South America. The males are green with a blue belly and grow to 50 cm. The species is omnivorous, likes to dig and needs a large, warm, sunny enclosure with a deep substrate and strong light and UVB. It is shy and nervous and is best suited to keepers with some experience.

Family: Teiidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**40-50 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**60-70 g**
Lifespan	**3-5 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Savanna, dry forest and rainforest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**150 × 70 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**25-30 °C**
Basking spot	**40-45 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-24 °C**
Humidity	**50-70%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects, fruit, vertebrates and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**3-11 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1-3**
Incubation	**140-160 days** at 27-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

Ameiva ameiva is an active digging and running lizard that needs far more space than its body size suggests. One animal needs an enclosure of at least 150 × 70 × 60 cm (length × width × height).

TEMPERATURE

By day the enclosure should be 25-30 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

The humidity is 50-70 %. The figure is derived from the habitat, because the husbandry literature gives no precise values. Keep part of the substrate dry and part slightly damp, not wet. Forest animals benefit from a damp hide box.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Ameiva ameiva is a diurnal sun-worshipper, so the enclosure needs strong light and UVB. Use a T5 tube for Ferguson zone 3 above the basking spot and a spotlight for the heat.

FEEDING

Ameiva ameiva is omnivorous, but the diet consists mostly of animal food. Offer a wide range of insects: crickets, grasshoppers, cockroaches, mealworms, silkworms and earthworms, preferably gut-loaded.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Ameiva ameiva is fast, wary and nervous and flees at the slightest disturbance. For the first few weeks the animal needs peace and many hiding places before it begins to show itself.

NATIVE RANGE

Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana, Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, Argentina, Paraguay and Trinidad & Tobago.