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LACERTIDS

Broadley's Rough-scaled Plated Lizard

Broadleysaurus major

Broadleysaurus major is a stout, armoured lizard from the savannas and rocky country of Africa, with thick, keeled scales in transverse bands, a blunt snout and a tail that makes up less than half of the total length. It is diurnal and inquisitive, but dislikes handling. It needs a large enclosure with deep burrowing substrate, warm basking spots, UVB and a diet of insects, plants and a little fruit.

Family: Gerrhosauridae Former name: *Gerrhosaurus major*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**30-60 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling, terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Savanna and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**120 × 60 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**23-26 °C**
Basking spot	**40-46 °C**
Temperature, night	**15-22 °C**
Humidity	**40-60%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects, fruit and plants**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**2-3 eggs**
Incubation	**110-145 days** at 28-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

An adult needs an enclosure of at least 120 × 60 × 60 cm (length × width × height). Bigger is better, because the species is very active and covers large areas in the wild.

TEMPERATURE

The basking spot should have a surface temperature of 40-46 °C, measured with an infrared thermometer. The cool end is 23-26 °C, and at night the temperature falls to 15-22 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Relative humidity in the enclosure is 40-60%, but the enclosure should have a dry area of 20-40% and a humid area of 50-80%. The air should be relatively dry, while the animal must have free access to a humid hide.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is diurnal and requires UVB. Without UVB the animal becomes ill. The UVB tube should be a T5 HO of 10-14%, in a fitting that covers about half the length of the enclosure, on the same side as the heat bulbs.

FEEDING

The species is omnivorous and lives mostly on insects, but also eats plants, flowers and fruit, and adults live on a larger proportion of plant matter. Juveniles need more energy-rich insects and small animals.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

B. major is active and inquisitive, but also nervous and easily frightened. Juveniles are particularly shy and defensive. The animal rarely bites, but lashes with its tail when grabbed.

NATIVE RANGE

Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Togo, Congo - Kinshasa, South Africa, Eswatini, Botswana, Zimbabwe, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Somalia, Uganda, Cameroon, Nigeria, Benin and Ghana.