herpy

LACERTIDS

Crocodile Tegu

Crocodilurus amazonicus

Crocodilurus amazonicus is a semi-aquatic lizard from the Amazon and Orinoco basins with a long, laterally flattened swimming tail and elongated toes. It reaches about 50-60 cm, catches insects, crustaceans, fish and frogs in and beside the water, and basks on branches over the water's edge. The species needs a warm, humid paludarium with a large water section and an experienced keeper.

Family: Teiidae Former name: *Crocodilurus lacertinus; Tupinambis lacertinus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**50-60 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**8-12 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Semi-aquatic**
Habitat	**Rainforest and wetland**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**120 × 60 × 90 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**27-31 °C**
Basking spot	**35-38 °C**
Temperature, night	**23-26 °C**
Humidity	**70-90%**
Water	**Water section** depth 15-25 cm
Water temperature	**25-29 °C**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects, vertebrates and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**2-6 eggs**
Incubation	**90-120 days** at 27-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Crocodilurus amazonicus*, and the species is rarely kept in captivity; captive breeding has scarcely been described.
TEMPERATURE	By day the air should be 27-31 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be 70-90 %. The water section, the plants and a damp substrate hold moisture, and a fogger or a rain system that runs a couple of times a day for 10 minutes gives an even humidity.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	The animal is a skilled swimmer and must be able to lie in the water and dive completely under.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Crocodilurus amazonicus* is diurnal and basks, so it needs light, UVA and UVB for 12 hours a day.
FEEDING	In the wild *Crocodilurus amazonicus* eats mostly aquatic arthropods (insects, crustaceans and spiders), but also fish and frogs.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Crocodilurus amazonicus* is a fast, shy animal that flees at the slightest disturbance: out into the water and into a hide.
NATIVE RANGE	Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru and French Guiana.