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LACERTIDS

Gran Canaria Giant Lizard

Gallotia stehlini

Gallotia stehlini is one of the largest lizards in Europe and is endemic to Gran Canaria. It grows to 80 cm, the males have powerful jaws, and the diet is omnivorous with a lot of plant food. The animals are very aggressive towards each other and are best kept as a pair in a large, sunny enclosure with many hiding places.

Family: Lacertidae Former name: *Lacerta stehlini*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**50-80 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Semi-desert and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**150 × 70 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**25-31 °C**
Basking spot	**35-45 °C**
Temperature, night	**15-21 °C**
Humidity	**40-60%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 3
Winter rest	**12-15 °C** 8-9 weeks
Diet	**Insects, fruit and plants**
Kept	**In pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**4-16 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1-2**
Incubation	**65-86 days** at 28-32 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix III**
EU annex	**Annex C**
IUCN	**Critically Endangered (CR)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	*Gallotia stehlini* moves mostly on the ground and is large and active, so floor area matters more than height. A pair needs an enclosure of at least 150 × 70 × 60 cm (length × width × height).
TEMPERATURE	The daytime temperature is 25-31 °C, and a spotlight over a flat stone gives a surface temperature of 35-45 °C. At night the temperature falls to 15-21 °C, and night-time heating is not necessary.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The humidity is 40-60 %. The enclosure is dry and well ventilated; only the laying box is kept constantly damp. Provide a shallow dish of fresh water, changed daily and available at all times.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Gallotia stehlini* is diurnal and basks for several hours, so the enclosure needs strong light and UVB. Indoors, use a T5 tube for Ferguson zone 3 above the basking spot, and determine the distance with a UV meter.
FEEDING	*Gallotia stehlini* is omnivorous, and adults eat a lot of plant food.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Gallotia stehlini* is wary, fast and powerful, and for the first few weeks the animal needs peace and many hiding places.
NATIVE RANGE	Spain.