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LACERTIDS

Western Green Lizard

Lacerta bilineata

Lacerta bilineata is a large, slender, diurnal lizard of the warm, sunny slopes and scrub of western Europe, with a green body, black spots and a tail that makes up two thirds of its length. The species grows to 25-40 cm, feeds on insects and other small animals, and needs sun, a large enclosure or an outdoor enclosure and a cold brumation.

Family: Lacertidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**25-40 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**30-45 g**
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rocky terrain and temperate woodland and meadow**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**150 × 60 × 75 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**22-30 °C**
Basking spot	**38-45 °C**
Temperature, night	**12-18 °C**
Humidity	**40-60%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 3
Winter rest	**4-6 °C** 8-12 weeks
Diet	**Insects and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**5-23 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1-4**
Incubation	**45-80 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

Lacerta bilineata is large and active, likes to climb and uses the whole space. A pair or a male with two females needs an indoor enclosure of at least 150 × 60 × 75 cm (length × width × height), and larger is better.

TEMPERATURE

Lacerta bilineata loves the sun.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

The humidity must be 40-60 %, with a slightly moister part and a dry part, so that the animals can choose for themselves.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Lacerta bilineata is diurnal and basks for several hours every day, so it needs strong light and UVB. Outdoors the UVB comes from the sun.

FEEDING

Lacerta bilineata feeds on beetles, grasshoppers, caterpillars, flies, moths, spiders, earthworms, woodlice, snails and other small animals, and large animals also take small lizards.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Lacerta bilineata is fast, wary and shy. A new animal takes a long time to settle in and hides at every approach until then. Feeding with tweezers makes the animal confident.

NATIVE RANGE

Spain, Andorra, France, Monaco, Switzerland, Italy, San Marino, Slovenia, Croatia and Germany.