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LACERTIDS

## Iberian Emerald Lizard

# *Lacerta schreiberi*

*Lacerta schreiberi* is a robust, green, diurnal lizard from mountain woodland, streams and rocky ground in north-western and central Spain and Portugal. It grows to 40 cm, the male develops a deep blue throat in the breeding season, and it does best in an outdoor enclosure with sun, cool nights and a cold winter rest.

Family: Lacertidae  Former name: *Lacerta viridis schreiberi*

**KEY FACTS**

### THE ANIMAL

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|---|---|
| Adult size | **25-40 cm**<br>total length incl. tail |
| Lifespan | **8-12 years** |
| Active | **By day** |
| Lifestyle | **Rock-dwelling and terrestrial** |
| Habitat | **Rocky terrain and temperate woodland and meadow** |
| Difficulty | **Intermediate** |

### CARE

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|---|---|
| Min. enclosure | **150 × 80 × 100 cm**<br>L × W × H for 2 adults |
| Temperature, day | **22-30 °C** |
| Basking spot | **38-45 °C** |
| Temperature, night | **12-17 °C** |
| Humidity | **40-60%** |
| Water | **Water dish** |
| UVB | **Recommended**<br>Ferguson zone 2 |
| Winter rest | **4-6 °C**<br>12-16 weeks |
| Diet | **Insects** |
| Kept | **In pairs or one male with several females** |

### BREEDING

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| Reproduction | **Egg-laying** |
| Clutch size | **6-28 eggs** |
| Clutches per year | **1** |
| Incubation | **37-50 days**<br>at 28 °C |

### PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

## Care at a glance

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| **THE ENCLOSURE** | *Lacerta schreiberi* does best in an outdoor enclosure in full sun, where the animal gets natural light, cool nights, fresh air and a natural annual cycle. |
| **TEMPERATURE** | *Lacerta schreiberi* comes from mountains where the days are warm and the nights cool. By day the enclosure should be 22-30 °C with 38-45 °C at the basking spot, and at night the temperature should fall to 12-17 °C. |
| **HUMIDITY AND WATER** | *Lacerta schreiberi* needs a certain humidity, but not wet surroundings. The humidity in the enclosure should be 40-60 %. |
| **LIGHTING AND UVB** | *Lacerta schreiberi* basks for large parts of the day and needs strong light and UVB. Outdoors, UVB comes from the sun, and an enclosure with glass at the front must be opened in summer, because glass blocks UVB. |
| **FEEDING** | *Lacerta schreiberi* is an insectivore. In an outdoor enclosure a large part of the food arrives by itself: snails, spiders, woodlice and flying insects. In addition, give mealworms, crickets, grasshoppers and waxworms. |
| **BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING** | *Lacerta schreiberi* is a solitary species outside the breeding season. Males are incompatible with each other, and two males in the same enclosure end up fighting. Keep only one male. |
| **NATIVE RANGE** | Spain and Portugal. |