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LACERTIDS

Balkan Emerald Lizard

Lacerta trilineata

Lacerta trilineata is one of Europe's largest lizards: a robust, diurnal green animal of the warm scrub and rocky slopes of the Balkans and Greece. The species grows to 40-60 cm, of which the tail is about two thirds. It feeds on large insects and a little fruit, needs sun, UVB and a large enclosure, and must have a cool brumation.

Family: Lacertidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**40-60 cm** 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

Min. enclosure	**150 × 70 × 100 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**23-28 °C**
Basking spot	**38-42 °C**
Temperature, night	**15-20 °C**
Humidity	**40-60%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 3
Winter rest	**5-7 °C** 8-10 weeks
Diet	**Insects, fruit and worms/snails**
Kept	**In pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**5-20 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1-3**
Incubation	**80-85 days** at 27-28 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

Lacerta trilineata is a large and active lizard that needs a large enclosure. A pair or a male with two or three females needs at least 150 × 70 × 100 cm (length × width × height), and larger is always better.

TEMPERATURE

Lacerta trilineata loves the sun. Under the spotlight the basking spot must reach a surface temperature of 38-42 °C, measured with an infrared thermometer; with a powerful spotlight the basking spot is about 30 cm below the lamp.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Lacerta trilineata comes from dry, sunny habitats, and the humidity is 40-60 %. Good ventilation is more important than humidity. Provide a shallow, stable water dish and change the water daily.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Lacerta trilineata basks a lot and needs strong light and UVB. Outdoors the UVB comes from the sun.

FEEDING

Lacerta trilineata is primarily an insectivore, but also takes snails, small lizards and regularly fruit and flowers. The food is crickets, grasshoppers, caterpillars, moths, large cockroaches, giant mealworms and earthworms.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Lacerta trilineata is shy and fast. The males defend their territory fiercely, and a subordinate animal cannot avoid a stronger male in an enclosure.

NATIVE RANGE

North Macedonia, Bulgaria, Serbia, Greece, Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Albania.