herpy

LACERTIDS

Erhard's Wall Lizard

Podarcis erhardii

Podarcis erhardii is a medium-sized, diurnal wall lizard from Greece and the surrounding countries, especially the Aegean islands. It reaches 15-23 cm including the tail, is grey, brown or greenish with very variable markings, and feeds on arthropods. The species is common in the wild, but little is known about its care.

Family: Lacertidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**15-23 cm** total length incl. tail
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	**100 × 50 × 50 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**22-30 °C**
Basking spot	**40-45 °C**
Temperature, night	**14-18 °C**
Humidity	**40-60%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 3
Winter rest	**8-12 °C** 8-12 weeks
Diet	**Insects and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**In pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-4 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1-2**
Incubation	**35-45 days** at 26-28 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Podarcis erhardii*.
TEMPERATURE	By day the temperature should be 22-30 °C, and the basking spot should be 40-45 °C at the surface, measured with an infrared thermometer.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be moderate: 40-60 % by day. The enclosure must be able to dry out completely, because still, humid air causes skin problems and fungus.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Podarcis erhardii* is diurnal and lives in open, sunlit terrain, so the enclosure needs strong heat and UVB light. The species probably belongs to Ferguson zone 3, with a UV index of about 3-5 at the basking spot.
FEEDING	*Podarcis erhardii* eats mostly small arthropods. The feeder insects can be crickets, small grasshoppers, flies, fruit flies, springtails, spiders and woodlice, and mealworms and wax worms only in small amounts.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Podarcis erhardii* is fast and alert and flees when disturbed. Males are territorial, and two males together will fight.
NATIVE RANGE	Greece, Albania, North Macedonia and Bulgaria.