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LACERTIDS

Balearic Lizard

Podarcis lilfordi

Podarcis lilfordi is a robustly built, diurnal lizard from the small islands around Mallorca and Menorca. It reaches 15-20 cm including the tail, varies greatly in colour from black with a blue belly to greenish brown, and eats insects, small invertebrates and a few flowers and a little fruit. The species is shy in the terrarium and rare in the hobby.

Family: Lacertidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**15-20 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	**100 × 50 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**22-30 °C**
Basking spot	**40-45 °C**
Temperature, night	**15-20 °C**
Humidity	**40-60%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 3
Winter rest	**12-15 °C** 8-12 weeks
Diet	**Insects, nectar and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**In pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**12-24 months**
Clutch size	**1-4 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1-6**
Incubation	**30-43 days** at 29-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex A**
IUCN	**Near Threatened (NT)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is documented about the care of *Podarcis lilfordi*, and most figures are borrowed from closely related island lizards and from captive keeping of the species. The climate in the range is hot and dry with mild winters.
TEMPERATURE	The gradient is the most important thing. The basking spot should be 40-45 °C at the surface, measured with an infrared thermometer, and the rest of the enclosure 22-30 °C by day.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be moderate: 40-60 % by day. The enclosure must be able to dry out completely, and stagnant, damp air causes skin problems and fungus.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Podarcis lilfordi* is diurnal and lives in full sun, so the enclosure needs strong heat and UVB light. The species probably belongs to Ferguson zone 3, with a UV index of around 3-5 at the basking spot.
FEEDING	*Podarcis lilfordi* is omnivorous, with the main emphasis on insects and other arthropods.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Podarcis lilfordi* is shy and easily frightened in the terrarium, but also curious and active when it feels secure. The animals have a reputation for being aggressive towards conspecifics, but two females usually get on well.
NATIVE RANGE	Spain.