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LACERTIDS

Balkan Wall Lizard

Podarcis tauricus

Podarcis tauricus is a robust, diurnal, ground-dwelling lizard from south-eastern Europe and Asia Minor. It reaches 20-24 cm including the tail, is brown and green with two pale stripes along the side, and lives in open places with sand, grass and scattered vegetation. The species is common in the wild, but little is known about its care.

Family: Lacertidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**20-24 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**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	**2-10 eggs**
Clutches per year	**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 tauricus*, so the figures for care, incubation time and lifespan are borrowed from *Podarcis muralis*.

TEMPERATURE

By day it 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 stagnant, humid air causes skin problems and fungus.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Podarcis tauricus is diurnal and lives in open, sunlit terrain, so the enclosure needs strong heat and UVB light. The species belongs to Ferguson zone 3, with a UV index of around 3-5 at the basking spot.

FEEDING

Podarcis tauricus eats small arthropods. Feeder insects can be crickets, small locusts, flies, fruit flies, springtails, spiders and woodlice, and mealworms and waxworms only in small amounts.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Podarcis tauricus is fast and alert, often basks in the open and flees when disturbed. Males form territories and defend them against other males, and two males together will fight.

NATIVE RANGE

Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, Hungary, North Macedonia, Bulgaria, Greece, Albania and Turkey.