herpy

LACERTIDS

Yellow Tegu

Salvator duseni

Salvator duseni is a diurnal, ground-dwelling tegu from the savannas of central Brazil and Paraguay. It is smaller than the two well-known tegus *Salvator merianae* and *Salvator rufescens*, has a dark head and dark legs and is yellow and black on the body. Almost nothing is known about its care in captivity, and the species is not available in the trade.

Family: Teiidae Former name: *Tupinambis duseni*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**41 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**15-20 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Savanna**
Difficulty	**Expert**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**250 × 125 × 125 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**24-35 °C**
Basking spot	**52-57 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-23 °C**
Humidity	**70-80%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects, fruit, plants, vertebrates and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**36 eggs**
Incubation	**40-75 days** at 29-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Almost nothing is known about the care of *Salvator duseni*, and the species is not found in the trade.
TEMPERATURE	The basking spot should have a surface temperature of 52-57 °C, measured with an infrared thermometer. The warm side is 32-35 °C and the cool side 24-29 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Air humidity should be 70-80 %. Keep the substrate damp, but not muddy, by watering it weekly, and mist the enclosure daily.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Salvator duseni* is diurnal and needs strong light and UVB for 12-14 hours a day.
FEEDING	Tegus are omnivorous, and the diet of *Salvator duseni* consists of plants, invertebrates and small vertebrates. Feeding follows the rules for the closely related tegus.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	Tegus are intelligent and curious and can become tame, but *Salvator duseni* is a wild animal, and its temperament in captivity is not described.
NATIVE RANGE	Brazil and Paraguay.