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LACERTIDS

Eyed Lizard

Timon lepidus

Timon lepidus is one of Europe's largest lizards: robust, diurnal and green with blue eye-spots on the flanks, from the Iberian Peninsula, southern France and the far north-west of Italy. It reaches 40-70 cm, is inquisitive and can become tame, but needs a large enclosure, strong heat and UVB, a cool brumation, and ideally an outdoor enclosure in summer.

Family: Lacertidae Former name: *Lacerta lepida*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**40-70 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-25 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling, terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Rocky terrain and temperate woodland and meadow**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**120 × 60 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**22-30 °C**
Basking spot	**35-50 °C**
Temperature, night	**15-20 °C**
Humidity	**35-75%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Winter rest	**8-12 °C** 8-10 weeks
Diet	**Insects, fruit and vertebrates**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**12-34 months**
Clutch size	**5-24 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1-3**
Incubation	**75-100 days** at 26-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	An adult or a pair needs an enclosure of at least 120 × 60 × 60 cm (length × width × height). The species is active and uses the whole floor. A male with several females needs more space.
TEMPERATURE	The basking spot should have a surface temperature of 35-50 °C, measured with an infrared thermometer. The air in the rest of the enclosure is kept at 22-30 °C by day, coolest at the opposite end.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The air in the enclosure should be relatively dry, 35-75 % from the warm to the humid end, but the lizards must always have access to a humid retreat.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Timon lepidus* is diurnal and basks for several hours a day, so it needs plenty of light and strong UVB.
FEEDING	*Timon lepidus* lives mostly on insects but also eats fruit and other plant matter. Offer a varied diet of crickets, locusts, cockroaches, mealworms, Zophobas and other large insects.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Timon lepidus* is intelligent and inquisitive. It quickly gets to know its keeper, begs for food and takes it from a hand or tweezers.
NATIVE RANGE	Spain, Portugal, Gibraltar, Andorra, France and Italy.