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LACERTIDS

North African Ocellated Lizard

Timon pater

Timon pater is a large, diurnal lizard from northern Algeria and Tunisia and a close relative of the European *Timon lepidus*. Its care is based on *T. lepidus* and *Timon tangitanus*: a large enclosure, strong heat and UVB, a cool winter rest and, ideally, an outdoor enclosure in summer.

Family: Lacertidae Former name: *Lacerta lepida pater*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**40-60 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**17 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	**40-70%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Winter rest	**8-15 °C** 6-8 weeks
Diet	**Insects and fruit**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**10-16 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1-2**
Incubation	**78-96 days** at 26 °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 *Timon pater*, and the figures here are borrowed from the closely related *Timon lepidus* and *Timon tangitanus*, which are better known in captivity.

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, and the temperature drops to 15-20 °C at night.

HUMIDITY AND WATER
The air in the enclosure should be fairly dry, 40-70 %, but the animals must always be able to retreat to a humid hide. Keep the substrate dry on top and damp deeper down.

LIGHTING AND UVB
Timon pater is diurnal and basks for several hours, so the enclosure needs plenty of light and strong UVB. Use a T5 HO tube of 10-12 % in a fitting with a reflector above the basking spot, or a mercury vapour lamp.

FEEDING
In the wild the diet consists mostly of beetles and ants, at times also snails and grasshoppers. Offer crickets, grasshoppers, cockroaches, mealworms and zophobas in a variety of sizes.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
The behaviour of *Timon pater* is not documented, so what follows is borrowed from the other members of the genus. The animals are curious and can take food from tweezers.

NATIVE RANGE
Algeria and Tunisia.