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SKINKS

Iberian Three-Toed Skink

Chalcides striatus

Chalcides striatus is a slender, almost snake-like skink from the Iberian Peninsula, southern France and Liguria with small legs, three toes on each foot and dark longitudinal stripes. It lives hidden in damp, low vegetation and gives birth to live young. Its care is almost unknown, so this guide is based on the species in the wild and on its relatives *Chalcides chalcides* and *Chalcides ocellatus*.

Family: Scincidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**28-43 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**12-20 g**
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Temperate woodland and meadow**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**90 × 40 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**22-28 °C**
Basking spot	**32-35 °C**
Temperature, night	**15-20 °C**
Humidity	**40-70%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Winter rest	**8-12 °C** 8-12 weeks
Diet	**Insects and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Sexually mature	**36-48 months**
Litter size	**4-15 young**
Clutches per year	**1**
Gestation	**58-86 days**

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 *Chalcides striatus*. The habitat is known: damp, dense, low vegetation with cool nights and a winter rest.

TEMPERATURE

The species is diurnal and basks. The daytime temperature should be 22-28 °C with a basking spot of 32-35 °C air temperature, and the surface directly under the heat lamp can reach 40-45 °C, measured with an infrared thermometer.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

The species lives in damp vegetation, but not in water. Humidity should be moderate, 40-70%, and the substrate should be slightly damp at depth and dry at the surface.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is diurnal and basks, so it needs strong light and UVB. Ferguson zone 2 suits it: UV index 2-3 at the basking spot and lower in the rest of the enclosure.

FEEDING

In the wild *Chalcides striatus* eats arthropods, especially spiders, beetles and ticks; prey length is 1-36 mm. In the enclosure this corresponds to small, soft prey: crickets in small sizes, small roaches (e.g.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Chalcides striatus is shy and lives hidden. In the enclosure it is seen mostly when basking or hunting. It is fast and smooth and easily slips out of a hand, so it is not suited to handling.

NATIVE RANGE

Portugal, Spain, Gibraltar, France and Italy.