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SKINKS

Pink-Tongued Lizard

Cyclodomorphus gerrardii

Cyclodomorphus gerrardii is a slender, calm skink from eastern Australia with a pink tongue, dark crossbands and a long, weakly prehensile tail. The species grows to 40-45 cm, lives in humid forest, is most active at dusk and at night and in the wild feeds almost only on snails. It gives birth to live young, often many in each litter, and adults are very docile.

Family: Scincidae Former name: *Hemisphaeriodon gerrardii; Tiliqua gerrardii; Hinulia gerrardii*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**40-45 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**15-20 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rainforest and temperate woodland and meadow**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**120 × 60 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**20-30 °C**
Basking spot	**33-36 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Winter rest	**16-22 °C** 8-12 weeks
Diet	**Insects, fruit, complete diet, vertebrates and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Sexually mature	**22-36 months**
Litter size	**10-30 young**
Gestation	**90-120 days**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	An adult animal needs an enclosure of at least 120 × 60 × 60 cm (length × width × height). The species digs, but also climbs a little on sloping branches and cork bark, so a light climbing structure is a plus.
TEMPERATURE	The air temperature must be 25-30 °C during the day, with a cool end of 20-25 °C. The surface of the basking spot must be 33-36 °C. Measure the surface temperature with an infrared thermometer and the air temperature at both ends.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The species comes from humid forest, and a humidity of 60-80 % is suitable. The enclosure must be well ventilated. Keep the substrate slightly moist but never wet, and mist the enclosure lightly once a day.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The animal is most active at dusk and at night and lives on the forest floor, but benefits from weak UVB.
FEEDING	In the wild *Cyclodomorphus gerrardii* lives almost exclusively on snails and slugs, and the large, flat teeth at the back of the mouth are used to crush snail shells. Snails are therefore the biggest challenge in husbandry.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	Adults are among the calmest and most docile skinks. They move slowly and are easy to lift. Juveniles are shyer and empty their bowels when handled, so keep handling to a minimum until the animal is used to you.
NATIVE RANGE	Australia.