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SKINKS

## Cunningham's Skink

# *Egernia cunninghami*

A large, diurnal and highly social skink with a spiny tail from temperate south-eastern Australia. *Egernia cunninghami* lives in family groups in rock crevices, gives birth to live young and hibernates during the cold months. It needs a large, sunlit enclosure with solid rock structures and UVB.

Family: Scincidae  Former name: *Tiliqua cunninghami*

KEY FACTS

### THE ANIMAL

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|---|---|
| Adult size | **30-40 cm**<br>total length incl. tail |
| Weight | **200-350 g** |
| Lifespan | **20-27 years** |
| Active | **By day** |
| Lifestyle | **Rock-dwelling** |
| Habitat | **Rocky terrain and temperate woodland and meadow** |
| Difficulty | **Intermediate** |

### CARE

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|---|---|
| Min. enclosure | **120 × 60 × 60 cm**<br>L × W × H for 2 adults |
| Temperature, day | **24-30 °C** |
| Basking spot | **35-40 °C** |
| Temperature, night | **12-18 °C** |
| Humidity | **40-60%** |
| Water | **Water dish** |
| UVB | **Essential**<br>Ferguson zone 3 |
| Diet | **Insects, fruit, plants and worms/snails** |
| Kept | **In pairs or in groups** |

### BREEDING

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| Reproduction | **Live-bearing** |
| Sexually mature | **60 months** |
| Litter size | **1-8 young** |
| Clutches per year | **1** |
| Gestation | **90 days** |

### PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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| CITES | **Appendix III** |
| EU annex | **Annex C** |
| IUCN | **Least Concern (LC)** |

## Care at a glance

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| **THE ENCLOSURE** | *Egernia cunninghami* is a large species, and it needs a spacious terrarium. A pair needs at least 120 × 60 × 60 cm (length × width × height). A small group of one male and three to four females needs more. |
| **TEMPERATURE** | By day the air should be 24-30 °C with a clear gradient from the cool to the warm end. |
| **HUMIDITY AND WATER** | *Egernia cunninghami* comes from temperate rocky forests, and a humidity of 40-60 % is suitable. Mist the enclosure lightly a couple of times a week, and keep a damp hide at the cool end so that the animal can choose for itself. |
| **LIGHTING AND UVB** | *Egernia cunninghami* is diurnal, basks a lot and needs UVB for as long as the light is on. |
| **FEEDING** | *Egernia cunninghami* is omnivorous, but adults are mainly herbivores: in the wild more than 90 % of their food consists of plant material. Young animals eat far more arthropods. |
| **BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING** | *Egernia cunninghami* is one of the most social reptiles: it lives in long-lasting family groups. |
| **NATIVE RANGE** | Australia. |