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SKINKS

## Pygmy Spiny-tailed Skink

# *Egernia depressa*

A small, heavily spined skink from southern Western Australia that lives in family groups and wedges itself into crevices and hollow logs. *Egernia depressa* is omnivorous and gives birth to live young. Little is known about its care, so this guide draws on the species in the wild and on the close relatives *Egernia stokesii* and *Egernia hosmeri*.

Family: Scincidae  Former name: *Silubosaurus depressus*

KEY FACTS

### THE ANIMAL

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| Adult size | **11-13 cm** snout-vent length |
| Lifespan | **10-25 years** |
| Active | **By day** |
| Lifestyle | **Arboreal and rock-dwelling** |
| Habitat | **Semi-desert and rocky terrain** |
| Difficulty | **Intermediate** |

### CARE

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| Min. enclosure | **80 × 50 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults |
| Temperature, day | **27-32 °C** |
| Basking spot | **40-45 °C** |
| Temperature, night | **18-24 °C** |
| Humidity | **30-50%** |
| Water | **Water dish** |
| UVB | **Essential** Ferguson zone 3 |
| Diet | **Insects, fruit and plants** |
| Kept | **In pairs or in groups** |

### BREEDING

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| Reproduction | **Live-bearing** |
| Litter size | **1-6 young** |
| Gestation | **90-120 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 | Little documented knowledge exists on the care of *Egernia depressa*. |
| TEMPERATURE | By day the air should be 27-32 °C with a clear gradient from the cool end to the warm end. Under a halogen spot lies a flat stone whose surface should reach 40-45 °C, measured with an infrared thermometer. |
| HUMIDITY AND WATER | Humidity should be 30-50 %. Keep the enclosure mostly dry, but keep the substrate slightly damp under one hide in the cool end, so the animal can choose. A shallow dish of fresh water should always be available. |
| LIGHTING AND UVB | *Egernia depressa* is diurnal and needs UVB for as long as the light is on. A UVB tube in a reflector over the basking area, covering about half the length of the enclosure, gives Ferguson Zone 3. |
| FEEDING | *Egernia depressa* is omnivorous. In the wild its diet consists of insects, flowers, fruit, shoots and leaves. |
| BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING | The species is a small, shy skink that lives in small family groups in the wild. |
| NATIVE RANGE | Australia. |