herpy

SKINKS

Hosmer's Spiny-tailed Skink

Egernia hosmeri

Egernia hosmeri is a reddish-brown, spiny skink from the dry, rocky regions of northern Australia. It is diurnal, omnivorous and gives birth to live young. Little documented knowledge of its care exists, so the guide is based on the species in the wild and on the close relatives *Egernia stokesii* and *Egernia cunninghami*.

Family: Scincidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**28-30 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**125-135 g**
Lifespan	**10-25 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling**
Habitat	**Savanna and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**120 × 60 × 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	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Litter size	**1-8 young**
Gestation	**90-150 days**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little documented knowledge exists about the care of *Egernia hosmeri*.
TEMPERATURE	The enclosure must have a clear gradient. By day the air is 27-32 °C. Under a halogen spot lies a large, flat stone whose surface should reach 40-45 °C measured with an infrared thermometer, and the cool end is about 27 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The species comes from dry regions, and humidity should be 30-50 %. Mist the enclosure lightly a couple of times a week, and keep the substrate slightly damp under one hide at the cool end, so that the animal can choose for itself.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Egernia hosmeri* is diurnal and needs UVB for as long as the light is on. A UVB tube in a reflector over the basking spot, covering about half the enclosure's length, gives Ferguson zone 3.
FEEDING	*Egernia hosmeri* is omnivorous and in the wild eats insects, leaves, shoots and berries.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The animals' social life is not documented for *Egernia hosmeri*. The species of the genus live in permanent pairs and stable family groups for years, but unfamiliar adults can come into serious conflict.
NATIVE RANGE	Australia.