herpy

SKINKS

Gidgee Skink

Egernia stokesii

A robust, social skink with a spiny tail from semi-arid Australia. *Egernia stokesii* lives in permanent family groups in rock crevices and hollow logs, gives birth to live young and can block its hide with its spiny tail. It needs heat, UVB and an enclosure with solid rock structures.

Family: Scincidae Former name: *Silubosaurus stokesii*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**21-28 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**100-200 g**
Lifespan	**10-25 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and rock-dwelling**
Habitat	**Semi-desert 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	**43-49 °C**
Temperature, night	**21-27 °C**
Humidity	**40-60%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects, fruit and plants**
Kept	**In pairs or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Litter size	**1-8 young**
Clutches per year	**1**
Gestation	**90 days**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

Egernia stokesii lives in groups, and the enclosure must be large enough for them. A pair or a small group of up to three needs at least 120 × 60 × 60 cm (length × width × height).

TEMPERATURE

The enclosure must have a clear gradient. The basking spot should be 43-49 °C, measured on the surface with an infrared thermometer, and the cool end should be about 27 °C. The daytime temperature in the background is 27-32 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

The species comes from semi-arid regions, but thrives best at a humidity of 40-60 %. Mist the enclosure lightly in the morning a couple of times a week, and keep a damp hide at the cool end.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is diurnal and needs UVB for as long as the light is on. A T5 HO tube in a reflector, covering about half of the terrarium's length, gives Ferguson zone 3.

FEEDING

Egernia stokesii is omnivorous. In the wild adults eat mostly plants: leaves, flowers, fruit and seeds, and the plant share is largest in summer. Young animals eat more insects than adults.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

The species is social and lives in family groups with a pair, young and half-grown offspring from several litters. It can be kept in pairs or in a small group, especially if the animals have grown up together.

NATIVE RANGE

Australia.