herpy

SKINKS

Tree Skink

Egernia striolata

A medium-sized, diurnal and highly social skink from the dry woodlands of eastern Australia. *Egernia striolata* lives in crevices in trees and rocks, lives in small family groups and gives birth to live young. It needs a tall enclosure with many narrow hiding places, a warm basking spot and UVB.

Family: Scincidae Former name: *Tropidolepisma striolatum; Tropidolepisma dorsale*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**10-12 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**10 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and rock-dwelling**
Habitat	**Dry forest and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**80 × 50 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**25-30 °C**
Basking spot	**35-40 °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

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Sexually mature	**24-36 months**
Litter size	**1-6 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 striolata uses height and climbs a lot. A pair needs at least 80 × 50 × 60 cm (length × width × height).

TEMPERATURE

By day the air should be 25-30 °C with a clear gradient. Under a lamp at one end the basking spot should reach 35-40 °C, measured with an infrared thermometer.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

The species comes from dry to semi-arid woodland, and humidity should be 30-50%; the figure is an estimate based on the habitat.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Egernia striolata is diurnal and basks a great deal. A UVB tube in a reflector over the basking spot should give UVB corresponding to Ferguson zone 3, as for *Egernia cunninghami* and *Egernia stokesii*.

FEEDING

Egernia striolata is omnivorous. Offer insects such as crickets, cockroaches, mealworms and grasshoppers, and supplement with finely chopped greens, wild plants such as dandelion and clover, and a little fruit.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

The species is highly social and prefers to live together, even when there is room to live alone. A pair or a group of three to six animals that have grown up together works best.

NATIVE RANGE

Australia.