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SKINKS

Gold skink

Eumeces schneiderii

A sturdy, smooth and fast skink from the arid regions between North Africa and Central Asia. *Eumeces schneiderii* is sand-coloured to olive-brown with orange spots, readily burrows into loose sand and is a robust, long-lived terrarium species when given sun, UVB and a deep substrate.

Family: Scincidae English name: Gold Skink Former name: *Eumeces schneideri; Novoeumeces schneideri*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**30-45 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**15-20 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Desert and semi-desert**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**120 × 60 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**25-30 °C**
Basking spot	**40-45 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-25 °C**
Humidity	**20-40%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects, fruit and vertebrates**
Kept	**Singly or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**5-15 eggs**
Incubation	**40-60 days** at 28-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

Eumeces schneiderii lives on the ground and burrows, so floor area and substrate are the most important things. A pair, or a male with two females, needs at least 120 × 60 × 45 cm (length × width × height).

TEMPERATURE

The enclosure needs a clear gradient. By day the enclosure should be 25-30 °C, warmest near the basking spot and coolest at the opposite end.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

The species comes from arid regions and should be kept dry with a humidity of 20-40 %, and in any case below 50 %. Light misting once a week is enough.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is diurnal and needs UVB for as long as the light is on. It belongs to Ferguson zone 3 and needs a UV index of about 3 at the basking spot.

FEEDING

Eumeces schneiderii is omnivorous, but eats mainly live insects and other small animals: crickets, roaches, mealworms, superworms, silkworms, snails and earthworms.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

The species is curious and readily explores its surroundings. New animals are often cautious, but with patience and feeding from tongs they become calm. Lift the animal from below, and never grab it from above; a bite can hurt.

NATIVE RANGE

Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Israel, Palestinian Territories, Cyprus, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan and Pakistan.