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SKINKS

Emerald Skink

Lamprolepis smaragdina

Lamprolepis smaragdina is a slender, diurnal skink that lives in the trees on the islands of South-East Asia and the western Pacific. It is usually emerald green with brown, white-speckled hind legs and spends most of its time on trunks and branches. In the enclosure it needs height, warmth, powerful UVB and high humidity, and it is best suited as a display animal.

Family: Scincidae Former name: *Dasia smaragdina; Lygosoma smaragdinum*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**20-25 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**7-12 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 45 × 90 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**24-29 °C**
Basking spot	**33-36 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-25 °C**
Humidity	**70-100%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects, fruit and complete diet**
Kept	**Singly or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**9-13 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**69-100 days** at 26-29 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

A single adult *Lamprolepis smaragdina* needs an enclosure of at least 60 × 45 × 90 cm (length × width × height), and larger is better, especially in height. The species is arboreal, so height is more important than floor area.

TEMPERATURE

The basking spot for *Lamprolepis smaragdina* should be about 35 °C, measured on the branch itself with a digital probe. The cool side should be 24-29 °C, and at night the temperature should be 20-25 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

The humidity in the enclosure for *Lamprolepis smaragdina* should be about 70 % by day and rise towards 100 % at night.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Lamprolepis smaragdina is active by day and lives in sunlit trees, so the species needs powerful UVB and bright light.

FEEDING

Lamprolepis smaragdina is first and foremost an insectivore, but takes a little fruit and flowers. The basic food can be crickets, cockroaches (for example *Blaptica dubia*), locusts and other varied insects.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Lamprolepis smaragdina is fast and shy and better as a display animal than as an animal for handling. A new animal needs at least two weeks in peace. If it does not eat after that time, it should see a vet before it is handled.

NATIVE RANGE

Philippines, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Palau and Timor-Leste.