herpy

SKINKS

Southern White's Skink

Liopholis whitii

A medium-sized, diurnal rock skink from cool temperate southern Australia and Tasmania. *Liopholis whitii* lives in rock crevices and burrows under stones, lives in small family groups and gives birth to live young. It needs an enclosure with many narrow hiding places, a warm basking spot, a cool night and patience when putting animals together.

Family: Scincidae Former name: *Egernia whitii; Scincus whitii*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**8-10 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling and burrowing**
Habitat	**Rocky terrain and temperate woodland and meadow**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**90 × 45 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**20-26 °C**
Basking spot	**30-35 °C**
Temperature, night	**12-18 °C**
Humidity	**40-60%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects, fruit and plants**
Kept	**In pairs or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Sexually mature	**24-36 months**
Litter size	**1-4 young**
Clutches per year	**1**
Gestation	**100-140 days**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about keeping *Liopholis whitii*. A single animal can be kept in 60 × 30 × 40 cm.
TEMPERATURE	By day the air should be 20-26 °C, and under a lamp at one end a flat stone should reach 30-35 °C measured with an infrared thermometer. At night the temperature should drop to 12-18 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be 40-60 %. Keep the substrate dry, but make part of it slightly damp under a stone or a piece of bark so the animals can choose. Do not mist daily.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is diurnal and basks on rocks. A UVB tube in a reflector above the basking spot should provide UVB corresponding to Ferguson zone 2.
FEEDING	*Liopholis whitii* is omnivorous. Offer insects such as mealworms, crickets and cockroaches, and supplement with finely chopped herbs and a little fruit or berries.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is territorial towards strangers and in the wild lives in small family groups whose members know each other.
NATIVE RANGE	Australia.

The full guide with map and updates: herpy.org/en/skinks/liopholis-whitii