herpy

SKINKS

Banded Lipinia

Lipinia microcerca

Lipinia microcerca is a small, diurnal skink from Vietnam, Cambodia and southern Laos. It lives on the trunks of large trees in light forest and around villages, hunting ants and other small insects. It reaches 8-9 cm including the orange tail and is fast and shy.

Family: Scincidae Former name: *Lipinia vittigera microcerca; Lygosoma microcercum*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**8-9 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**3-5 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 45 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**25-28 °C**
Basking spot	**32 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-23 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**In pairs or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**12 months**
Clutch size	**2-4 eggs**
Incubation	**50-70 days** at 23-25 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Not Evaluated (NE)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Lipinia microcerca*. Day and night temperatures, humidity and breeding are based on the climate of its range and on other small, arboreal skinks, and the figures are estimates.
TEMPERATURE	By day the temperature should be 25-28 °C, and a small basking spot on a trunk under a weak heat bulb should reach 32 °C, measured on the surface. At night the heat is switched off and the temperature falls to 20-23 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be 60-80 %, highest at night and just after misting. The species lives in lighter forest with a dry season, so it needs slightly drier air than *Lipinia vittigera*.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Lipinia microcerca* is diurnal and moves about on forest trunks where the sun falls filtered.
FEEDING	*Lipinia microcerca* eats fruit flies, small crickets, buffalo worms (lesser mealworm larvae), small beetles and other insects of the same size. In the wild its diet is spiders and small insects, including ants.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Lipinia microcerca* is fast and shy and is an animal to watch, not to handle. It can shed its tail, and the new tail does not look like the original.
NATIVE RANGE	Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.