herpy

SKINKS

Banded Lipinia

Lipinia vittigera

Lipinia vittigera is a small, diurnal skink that lives on the trunks of large trees in the rainforest of the southern Malay Peninsula, Sumatra and Borneo. It reaches around 8 cm and is recognised by a broad, pale band along the back between two dark stripes.

Family: Scincidae Former name: *Lygosoma vittigerum*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**7-9 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	**30-32 °C**
Temperature, night	**22-24 °C**
Humidity	**70-90%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**12 months**
Clutch size	**2-3 eggs**
Incubation	**50-70 days** at 26-28 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
Little is known about the care of *Lipinia vittigera*. Care is based on the climate and habitat, on the close relative *Lipinia microcerca* and on *Lamprolepis smaragdina*, a larger, arboreal skink from the same region.

TEMPERATURE
By day the temperature should be 25-28 °C, and 30-32 °C at a basking spot high on a trunk, measured on the surface; *Lipinia microcerca* does well with 32 °C at the basking spot.

HUMIDITY AND WATER
Humidity should be 70-90 %, lowest by day and highest at night. This is slightly more humid than for *Lipinia microcerca*, which lives in lighter forest with a dry season.

LIGHTING AND UVB
Lipinia vittigera is diurnal, but lives on shaded trunks in forest, so a low UV index is suitable: around 1-2 at the basking spot, corresponding to Ferguson zone 2.

FEEDING
Lipinia vittigera eats spiders and small insects, including ants, which it catches on trunks and bark.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
Lipinia vittigera is fast and shy and is an animal to watch, not to handle. A new animal should be left in peace for at least two weeks in an enclosure with plenty of hides.

NATIVE RANGE
Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia.