herpy

SKINKS

American Five-lined Skink

Plestiodon fasciatus

Plestiodon fasciatus is a slender, glossy-scaled skink from woodland and woodland edges in eastern North America. It grows to 13-21 cm, the young are black with five pale stripes and a bright blue tail, and the male gets a red head in the breeding season. It feeds on insects and spiders, needs sun and a cold winter rest, and the female guards her eggs.

Family: Scincidae Former name: *Eumeces fasciatus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**13-21 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**4-6 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Temperate woodland and meadow**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**90 × 45 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-30 °C**
Basking spot	**34-38 °C**
Temperature, night	**15-20 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Winter rest	**5-10 °C** 8-16 weeks
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**In pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**21-36 months**
Clutch size	**5-18 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1**
Incubation	**22-32 days** at 27-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	There is little documented knowledge about keeping *Plestiodon fasciatus* in captivity. The recommendations here are based on the species' habitat, preferred temperature and biology.
TEMPERATURE	*Plestiodon fasciatus* chooses its own temperature between 28 and 36 °C and briefly tolerates up to 42 °C. The daytime temperature in the enclosure should be 24-30 °C, and the basking spot 34-38 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	*Plestiodon fasciatus* prefers moister habitats than most other species in the genus, does not tolerate overly dry conditions and always lives near permanent water.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Plestiodon fasciatus* is diurnal and basks, especially in the morning. The species lives at woodland edges and in clearings and needs strong light and UVB.
FEEDING	*Plestiodon fasciatus* is purely carnivorous and lives on arthropods.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Plestiodon fasciatus* is quick and shy and hides under bark and stones when disturbed.
NATIVE RANGE	United States and Canada.