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SKINKS

## Peters' Banded Skink

# *Scincopus fasciatus*

A heavy, nocturnal burrowing skink from the edges of the Sahara, yellow to orange with broad black crossbands. *Scincopus fasciatus* digs permanent burrows in sandy soil, eats insects and grows to 20-25 cm. It needs deep, sandy substrate, a warm basking spot, a dark hiding place and dry air.

Family: Scincidae  Former name: *Scincus fasciatus; Cyclodus brandtii*

KEY FACTS

### THE ANIMAL

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|---|---|
| Adult size | **20-25 cm** total length incl. tail |
| Lifespan | **10-15 years** |
| Active | **At night** |
| Lifestyle | **Burrowing** |
| Habitat | **Desert, semi-desert and savanna** |
| Difficulty | **Intermediate** |

### CARE

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|---|---|
| Min. enclosure | **90 × 45 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult |
| Temperature, day | **27-30 °C** |
| Basking spot | **35-38 °C** |
| Temperature, night | **20-25 °C** |
| Humidity | **20-45%** |
| Water | **Water dish** |
| UVB | **Recommended** Ferguson zone 1 |
| Diet | **Insects, fruit and plants** |
| Kept | **Singly or in pairs** |

### BREEDING

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|---|---|
| Reproduction | **Egg-laying** |
| Clutch size | **4-5 eggs** |
| Incubation | **50-70 days** at 27-30 °C |

### PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

## Care at a glance

**THE ENCLOSURE**

Little is known about keeping *Scincopus fasciatus*, and the incubation and lifespan figures are borrowed from the related *Scincus scincus*. A single animal needs at least 90 × 45 × 45 cm (length × width × height).

**TEMPERATURE**

By day the air should be 27-30 °C, and under a heat lamp a hide or a flat stone should reach 35-38 °C measured with an infrared thermometer. Put a thermostat on the heating. At night the temperature should be 20-25 °C.

**HUMIDITY AND WATER**

Humidity should be low, 20-45 %, with good ventilation. Provide a damp hide on the cool side, where the substrate under a piece of bark or stone is kept moist; it helps during shedding.

**LIGHTING AND UVB**

*Scincopus fasciatus* is nocturnal, but weak UVB (Ferguson zone 1) is recommended. Use a UVB tube in a reflector above the basking spot and let the animal withdraw into shade.

**FEEDING**

*Scincopus fasciatus* eats mostly insects such as cockroaches, crickets, mealworms, silkworms and black soldier fly larvae. A little greens and fruit can be offered as a supplement.

**BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING**

The species is calm and tolerates handling, but is most active at night and spends the day underground. New animals are best left in peace for two to three weeks, until they eat steadily.

**NATIVE RANGE**

Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Western Sahara, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Chad, Sudan, South Sudan and Libya.