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SKINKS

Centralian Blue-Tongued Lizard

Tiliqua multifasciata

A sturdy skink from Australia's arid interior with a broad, pale grey to light brown body and numerous orange-brown crossbands from neck to tail tip. *Tiliqua multifasciata* has a large head, a black stripe behind the eye and a blue tongue, and it needs a large, dry enclosure with heat and UVB.

Family: Scincidae Former name: *Tiliqua occipitalis multifasciata*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**40-45 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**15-20 years**
Active	**By day and at dusk**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Desert and semi-desert**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**150 × 60 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**21-29 °C**
Basking spot	**37-40 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-24 °C**
Humidity	**20-40%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects, fruit, plants and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Litter size	**2-10 young**
Clutches per year	**1**
Gestation	**90-120 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 the care of *Tiliqua multifasciata*.
TEMPERATURE	The enclosure must have a clear gradient. The basking spot under a spotlight must have a surface temperature of 37-40 °C, and the rest of the enclosure must be 21-29 °C by day, coolest at the opposite end.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The species comes from dry regions and thrives at a humidity of 20-40 %. Keep the substrate dry and the ventilation good, because persistent damp in the substrate can cause fungal infections on the belly and feet.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species lives in strong sunlight, so the enclosure must have strong light and UVB for 8-12 hours a day. Provide UVB corresponding to Ferguson zone 3 with a UV index of about 3 at the basking spot.
FEEDING	*Tiliqua multifasciata* is omnivorous and in the wild eats a large proportion of plant food: seeds and plant parts, but also insects and carrion. In captivity the diet must be varied.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is calm and sedentary and gets used to gentle handling, but is not an animal to be carried around. A threatened animal hisses with its mouth open and displays the blue tongue.
NATIVE RANGE	Australia.