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SKINKS

False Poncelet's Helmet Skink

Tribolonotus pseudoponceleti

Tribolonotus pseudoponceleti is a small, secretive skink from Bougainville and Buka in the northern Solomon Islands. It has keeled, rough scales and a triangular head, and lives under rotting logs, usually in pairs. Its care is almost undescribed and is therefore based on the species' way of life in the wild and on the close relatives *Tribolonotus gracilis* and *Tribolonotus novaeguineae*.

Family: Scincidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**4-7 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**10 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 40 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-27 °C**
Basking spot	**27-28 °C**
Temperature, night	**22-24 °C**
Humidity	**70-90%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1 eggs**
Incubation	**65-85 days** at 23-27 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	The care of *Tribolonotus pseudoponceleti* is almost undescribed. The species lives in a warm, humid climate and hides under rotting logs.
TEMPERATURE	By day the temperature should be 24-27 °C at the cool end and 27-28 °C in a warm hide, and at night 22-24 °C. The species does not show itself in the open and does not bask, but warms up under logs and bark.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be 70-80 % by day and 80-90 % at night, and the substrate must always be moist, but not sodden; the species prefers damp, but not waterlogged places.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The need for UVB is not documented. The close relatives can manage without UVB when the food is dusted with calcium and vitamin D3, but a weak UVB light is recommended.
FEEDING	The species eats small arthropods, in captivity also termites. The staple diet can be small crickets, cockroaches, mealworms, silkworms, black soldier fly larvae, earthworms and small snails. Variety is important.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Tribolonotus pseudoponceleti* is an animal for observing and not for handling. If uncovered, it presses itself flat against the ground and stays there or crawls slowly away; it rarely tries to flee.
NATIVE RANGE	Papua New Guinea.