herpy

ESCINCOS

## African fire skink

# *Mochlus fernandi*

A heavy, fast skink from the forests of West Africa with vivid red-orange flanks, black and white crossbars and a bronze back. *Mochlus fernandi* burrows into moist substrate, needs warmth, UVB and moist substrate, and can live for 15-20 years.

Familia: Scincidae  Nombre anterior: *Lepidothyris fernandi; Lygosoma fernandi; Riopa fernandi; Tiliqua fernandi*

DATOS CLAVE

### EL ANIMAL

| | |
|---|---|
| Tamaño adulto | **25-38 cm**<br>longitud total con la cola |
| Peso | **50-100 g** |
| Esperanza de vida | **15-20 años** |
| Activo | **De día** |
| Modo de vida | **Terrestre y excavador** |
| Hábitat | **Sabana y selva tropical** |
| Dificultad | **Intermedio** |

### CUIDADOS

| | |
|---|---|
| Terrario mín. | **120 × 60 × 60 cm**<br>L × An × Al para 2 adultos |
| Temperatura, día | **25-30 °C** |
| Punto caliente | **33-36 °C** |
| Temperatura, noche | **20-24 °C** |
| Humedad | **60-70 %** |
| Agua | **Bebedero** |
| UVB | **Imprescindible**<br>Zona Ferguson 2 |
| Alimentación | **Insectos** |
| Se mantiene | **En solitario o en pareja** |

### CRÍA

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|---|---|
| Reproducción | **Ovípara** |
| Tamaño de la puesta | **3-9 huevos** |
| Puestas por año | **3-5** |
| Incubación | **55-65 días**<br>a 30 °C |

### PROTECCIÓN Y TRÁMITES

| | |
|---|---|
| CITES | **No incluida** |
| Anexo de la UE | **No incluida** |
| UICN | **Preocupación menor (LC)** |

## Cuidados de un vistazo

**EL TERRARIO**

*Mochlus fernandi* lives on the ground and burrows, so floor area and substrate matter most. A single animal can be kept in 90 × 45 × 45 cm, while a pair needs at least 120 × 60 × 60 cm (length × width × height).

**TEMPERATURA**

The enclosure needs a clear gradient. By day the temperature should be 25-30 °C, and at the basking spot the surface should reach 33-36 °C, measured with an infrared thermometer. The cool end should sit at about 24-26 °C.

**HUMEDAD Y AGUA**

The species needs high humidity in the substrate: 60-70 % around the animal's hiding places, while the surface in the warm end may be drier, down to about 40 %.

**ILUMINACIÓN Y UVB**

The species is diurnal and belongs to Ferguson zone 2: it basks a little and needs moderate UVB. The UV index should be about 3 at the basking spot and lower elsewhere in the enclosure.

**ALIMENTACIÓN**

*Mochlus fernandi* is an insectivore. The staple is crickets, supplemented with cockroaches, mealworms, silkworms, snails and other insects of a suitable size. Prey should be no larger than the animal's head.

**COMPORTAMIENTO Y MANIPULACIÓN**

The species is fast, slippery and somewhat shy. A new animal needs at least two weeks of peace before it is handled, and it should be lifted gently from below in a closed room so that it cannot escape.

**ÁREA DE DISTRIBUCIÓN NATURAL**

Sierra Leona, Guinea, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, Camerún, Guinea Ecuatorial, Gabón y Congo.