herpy

SCINQUES

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.

Famille: Scincidae Ancien nom: *Lepidothyris fernandi; Lygosoma fernandi; Riopa fernandi; Tiliqua fernandi*

INFORMATIONS ESSENTIELLES

L'ANIMAL

Taille adulte	**25-38 cm** longueur totale queue comprise
Poids	**50-100 g**
Espérance de vie	**15-20 ans**
Activité	**Le jour**
Mode de vie	**Terrestre et fouisseur**
Habitat	**Savane et forêt tropicale humide**
Difficulté	**Intermédiaire**

ENTRETIEN

Terrarium min.	**120 × 60 × 60 cm** L × l × H pour 2 adultes
Température, jour	**25-30 °C**
Zone de bain de soleil	**33-36 °C**
Température, nuit	**20-24 °C**
Hygrométrie	**60-70 %**
Eau	**Gamelle d'eau**
UVB	**Indispensables** Zone de Ferguson 2
Alimentation	**Insectes**
Détention	**Seul ou en couple**

REPRODUCTION

Reproduction	**Ovipare**
Taille de la ponte	**3-9 œufs**
Pontes par an	**3-5**
Incubation	**55-65 jours** à 30 °C

PROTECTION ET FORMALITÉS

CITES	**Non inscrite**
Annexe UE	**Non inscrite**
UICN	**Préoccupation mineure (LC)**

L'entretien en bref

LE TERRARIUM

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).

TEMPÉRATURE

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.

HYGROMÉTRIE ET EAU

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 %.

ÉCLAIRAGE ET 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.

ALIMENTATION

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.

COMPORTEMENT ET MANIPULATION

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.

AIRE D'ORIGINE

Sierra Leone, Guinée, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroun, Guinée équatoriale, Gabon et Congo-Brazzaville.