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SERPENTS

Checkered Garter Snake

Thamnophis marcianus

Thamnophis marcianus is a medium-sized, mainly diurnal garter snake with a black checkerboard pattern on a green to olive-brown back. It lives in the south-western United States, Mexico and Central America, almost always near water, and grows to 45-105 cm. It is hardy and can be kept on thawed mice, but it is a selective feeder, may eat other snakes of its own species and escapes through the smallest gaps.

Famille: Colubridae

INFORMATIONS ESSENTIELLES

L'ANIMAL

Taille adulte	**45-105 cm** longueur totale queue comprise
Poids	**30-120 g**
Espérance de vie	**7-10 ans**
Activité	**Le jour et la nuit**
Mode de vie	**Terrestre et semi-aquatique**
Habitat	**Semi-désert, savane et zone humide**
Difficulté	**Débutant**

ENTRETIEN

Terrarium min.	**100 × 50 × 50 cm** L × l × H pour 1 adulte
Température, jour	**23-27 °C**
Zone de bain de soleil	**29-32 °C**
Température, nuit	**18-24 °C**
Hygrométrie	**35-60 %**
Eau	**Gamelle d'eau**
UVB	**Recommandés** Zone de Ferguson 2
Repos hivernal	**12-15 °C** 8-16 semaines
Alimentation	**Vertébrés et vers/escargots**
Détention	**Seul**

REPRODUCTION

Reproduction	**Vivipare**
Maturité sexuelle	**18-24 mois**
Taille de la portée	**6-35 petits**
Pontes par an	**1-2**
Gestation	**80-105 jours**

PROTECTION ET FORMALITÉS

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

L'entretien en bref

LE TERRARIUM	Little species-specific knowledge exists on the care of *Thamnophis marcianus*.
TEMPÉRATURE	There must be a clear temperature gradient. The basking spot should be 29-32 °C measured on the surface, the cool end 23-27 °C and the night 18-24 °C.
HYGROMÉTRIE ET EAU	The humidity should be 35-60 %, highest at the cool end and at night. The enclosure should not be wet, because constant damp causes blisters on the belly and fungal infections.
ÉCLAIRAGE ET UVB	*Thamnophis marcianus* is diurnal and thrives in strong daylight. UVB is not strictly necessary, but it is recommended and often makes the snake more active.
ALIMENTATION	In the wild *Thamnophis marcianus* eats frogs, toads, tadpoles, small fish and earthworms.
COMPORTEMENT ET MANIPULATION	*Thamnophis marcianus* is quick and alert and usually becomes calm if it is handled regularly from a young age. Let new animals settle in for about two weeks, and only begin handling them when they are feeding reliably.
AIRE D'ORIGINE	États-Unis, Mexique, Belize, Honduras, Nicaragua et Costa Rica.