herpy

SKINKS

Blotched Blue-Tongued Lizard

Tiliqua nigrolutea

Tiliqua nigrolutea is a sturdy, heavily built skink from south-eastern Australia with a broad blue tongue and pale, irregular blotches on a dark back. It is diurnal and omnivorous, reaches 35-50 cm in length and can live for many years. The species comes from a cool temperate climate with a distinct winter dormancy and needs a large enclosure, UVB and a night-time temperature drop.

Family: Scincidae Former name: *Scincus nigroluteus; Cyclodus nigroluteus* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**35-55 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**15-30 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Montane forest and temperate woodland and meadow**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**180 × 60 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**21-29 °C**
Basking spot	**37-40 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-24 °C**
Humidity	**40-50%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects, fruit, plants and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Litter size	**5-11 young**
Gestation	**90-150 days**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix III**
EU annex	**Annex C**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	An adult animal needs an enclosure of at least 180 × 60 × 60 cm (length × width × height), corresponding to just over 1 m² of floor area. Larger is better.
TEMPERATURE	The air temperature must be 21-29 °C from the cool to the warm end, and the surface of the basking spot must be 37-40 °C, so that the animal can keep its body at the 30-35 °C it prefers when active.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The humidity must be 40-50 %, measured at the cool end. A wet substrate is not necessary, but a hide with damp sphagnum, where the humidity approaches 100 %, helps with shedding.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is diurnal and needs both UVB and strong light. Use a T5 tube with UVB, and position it so that the UV index at the basking spot is about 3-4 (Ferguson zone 3).
FEEDING	*Tiliqua nigrolutea* is omnivorous. The staple is a mixture of greens, animal protein and a little fruit. Juveniles under 12 months need 70-80 % protein, adults about 50-60 %.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Tiliqua nigrolutea* is calm, and captive-bred animals often become tame. When you lift the animal, the whole body including the tail must rest on your forearm, and one hand must be visible.
NATIVE RANGE	Australia.