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SKINKS

African Five-lined Skink

Trachylepis quinquetaeniata

Trachylepis quinquetaeniata is an active, diurnal skink from northern and central Africa with glossy, metallic scales, pale longitudinal stripes and a tail that shines electric blue in young animals and females. It basks on rocks and feeds on insects. It is fast and shy, so it is best suited as a display animal, not for handling.

Family: Scincidae Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**20-25 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**4-5 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Semi-desert, savanna and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**90 × 45 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**24-29 °C**
Basking spot	**32-35 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-22 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**12-15 months**
Clutch size	**3-10 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1-2**
Incubation	**60-62 days** at 27-29 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	A single animal needs a terrarium of at least 90 × 45 × 45 cm. The species is fast and very active and uses all the space it is given, so bigger is better.
TEMPERATURE	*Trachylepis quinquetaeniata* is a sun-lover. Keep 24-29 °C in the cool part of the terrarium and 32-35 °C at the basking spot itself, measured at the surface with a digital probe or an IR thermometer.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The species needs a moderate humidity of 60-80 %, lower by day and higher at night.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is diurnal and needs strong, bright light and UVB. It basks in open, rocky terrain and, judging by its way of life, belongs to Ferguson zone 3.
FEEDING	The species is insectivorous. Offer crickets, cockroaches (e.g.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Trachylepis quinquetaeniata* is fast, nervous and wary and is an animal to watch. It flees, drops its tail and is stressed by repeated handling.
NATIVE RANGE	Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo - Kinshasa, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda.