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SKINKS

Schmidt's Crocodile Skink

Tribolonotus schmidti

Tribolonotus schmidti is a small, shy skink from Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands with two rows of plate-like scales down the back. It lives hidden in the damp leaf litter of the forest floor and gives birth to live young, one at a time, unlike the two better-known relatives, which lay eggs.

Family: Scincidae Former name: *Pediporus schmidti* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**9-10 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**8-10 years**
Active	**By day and at dusk**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Rainforest and montane forest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 45 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**24-27 °C**
Basking spot	**27-28 °C**
Temperature, night	**22-24 °C**
Humidity	**70-90%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Litter size	**1 young**
Gestation	**65-85 days**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Tribolonotus schmidti*.
TEMPERATURE	Keep the terrarium for *Tribolonotus schmidti* at 24-27 °C by day, with a warm hide at 27-28 °C, and let the temperature fall to 22-24 °C at night.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	For *Tribolonotus schmidti* the humidity should be 70-90 %, and the substrate must always be damp.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Tribolonotus schmidti* sleeps at night and is probably active by day and at dusk in the shaded leaf litter. UVB is not documented for the species, but a weak UVB light (Ferguson zone 1) is recommended, following the relatives.
FEEDING	*Tribolonotus schmidti* is insectivorous. The staple diet can be crickets, cockroaches, mealworms, small larvae and earthworms. Snails and worms can be offered for variety. Young animals are fed every day, adults every other day.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Tribolonotus schmidti* is a shy skink that lives hidden, and it is an animal to watch and not for handling. The genus can make sounds, but this is not documented for the species. Give a new animal at least two weeks in peace.
NATIVE RANGE	Solomon Islands.

The full guide with map and updates: herpy.org/skinker/tribolonotus-schmidti