

BERBER SKINK

Eumeces schneiderii

Origin: North Africa, Algeria, Libya, Egypt.

Family: Scincidae

Most imported specimens arrive from Egypt. There are several sub-species, but this is the most commonly seen.

This medium-large sized skink can achieve a total length of 12-16.5" 30-42cm. This species has a large heavy head, a stout body supported by strong legs with five-toed feet. The colouration of this species is variable, a colour change is possible at temperatures 30°F, and which can result in an almost white appearance. The base colour is brownish to olive grey, with irregular orange or red cross bands to the base of the tail. Scales are smooth and glossy.



The Berber skink is a surprising agile reptile, at home in scrublands, grassy lands, dry sandy arid areas, and cultivated land. This lizard seems very adaptable to its environment, but will always have a fairly large burrow commonly between the roots of bushes where it spends the hottest part of the day.

As this can be a quarrelsome lizard, it is only advisable to keep one male and several females per enclosure; males may even attack females. Substrate can be sand, or beech chip. Natural set ups should be sand and large stones for basking, make sure the stones are placed so as to not fall and crush the lizards. A basking temperature of 85°F should be provided with a background temperature of 75-80°F. The use of full spectrum lighting is required, this species will bask. Water should be provided in a shallow dish, and a few times a week a light spray would be appreciated. As pre-mentioned a burrow is utilised in the wild and should be replicated in captivity. This can be easily achieved with cork tubes buried in the substrate; the bottom of the burrow can be kept slightly damp to help in shedding.

Food can consist of all suitably sized commercially produced live foods, cat food, overripe bananas & peaches, snails, pink mice, and strips of beef.

The reproduction of the species is not well documented but it is commonly reported that this species will pair for life.