



Red Eye Crocodile Skink Care Sheet

Species Name:

Tribolonotus gracilis

Adult Size:

15-20cm

Lifespan:

15-20 years

Breeding Age:

3-4 years



Red-eyed crocodile skinks, *Tribolonotus gracilis*, are a species of skink native to the tropical rainforests of New Guinea. They are named for their distinctive red or orange ring of scales surrounding each dark brown eye, and are known for their four rows of backward-facing, pointy scales running down their backs, resembling a crocodile's. These lizards are terrestrial and spend most of their time on the forest floor under leaf litter and other debris, often near water. Red-eyed crocodile skinks are relatively small, reaching maturity in 3-4 years. Males are slightly larger than females and have gray-blue, raised pores on the bottoms of the third, fourth, and sometimes fifth toes of their hind feet, as well as a rectangular patch of enlarged scales on their bellies

Housing:

Enclosure: A 3ft vivarium is ideal for the Red Eye Crocodile Skink. The Maxi sizes provide extra depth for a deep layer of substrate, as keen burrowers your Skink will appreciate this.

Substrate: Using a substrate that retains moisture is important for this lizard, ideally a mix of orchid bark and a loose substrate like coconut coir or moss.

Temperature:

Maintain a basking spot temperature of 28-30°C.

Provide a gradient, with the cooler side around 24-26°C.

Use a heat source like a basking light and a heat mat for heating.

Night time temperatures can drop to 22-24°C.

Lighting:

Red Eye Crocodile Skinks are nocturnal reptiles making their UVB requirements minimal, including a low intensity shade dweller UV is ideal to ensure your skink is happy and healthy.

Diet:

Feeding: Offer a varied diet of insects. (locusts, crickets, snails, and worms)

Supplements: Dust insects with calcium and vitamin supplements 2-3 times a week.



Humidity and Hydration:

A humidity of 70-80% should be maintained.

Provide a shallow dish for drinking water. Mist the enclosure occasionally to maintain humidity levels and aid in shedding.

Enrichment and Handling:

Place hiding spots, rocks, and branches for climbing to create a stimulating environment.

Provide a secure hide for them to retreat and feel safe.

Handle your Skink gently and regularly to foster trust, but be mindful of their stress levels.

Health Considerations:

Regularly monitor for signs of illness, such as lethargy, changes in appetite, or difficulty shedding.

Quarantine new reptiles before introducing them to existing enclosures.

Remember that the care requirements for Red Eye Crocodile Skinks may vary slightly based on individual needs, so observe your reptile's behaviour and make adjustments accordingly. Always prioritize the well-being and health of your pet by providing a well-maintained and enriched environment.