



Sulawesi Water Skink Care Sheet

Species Name:

Tropodiphorus baconi

Adult Size:

30cm

Lifespan:

10-15 years

Breeding Age:

2-3 years



Sulawesi Water Skinks, also known as *Tropodiphorus baconi*, are a species of semi-aquatic skinks native to the Indonesian island of Sulawesi. These lizards are characterized by their spiky appearance, with small, pointed scales covering their bodies, and their ability to swim well in water. Adults can reach lengths of 7-9 inches at full sexual maturity, with males being slightly larger than females

These skinks are found in natural habitats with high humidity levels, near streams, rivers, and other sources of water. They are omnivorous, feeding on small invertebrates and vegetation in their native region. In captivity, they can be fed a diet of crickets, mealworms, and other insects, as well as fruits and vegetables

Housing:

Enclosure: A 3-4ft vivarium is ideal for the Sulawesi Water Skink. The Maxi sizes provide extra depth for a deep layer of substrate, as keen burrowers your Skink will appreciate this.

Substrate: Use a soil mix and provide a deep layer for your skink to burrow into.

Temperature:

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

Provide a gradient, with the cooler side around 23-27°C.

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

Night time temperatures can drop to 21-24°C.

Lighting:

Provide a UVB light source (10-12%) for at least 10-12 hours a day to support calcium metabolism and overall health.

Diet:

Feeding: Offer a varied diet of insects.

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



Humidity and Hydration:

A humidity of 60-85% 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 Sulawesi Water 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.