

Orange – Eyed Crocodile Skink Caresheet

Background Information

The Orange-Eyed Crocodile skink originates from Papua New Guinea and has also been found in the Admiralty Islands. This small to medium sized skink grows to a length of 8 – 10 inches. As the words “orange-eyed” and “crocodile” suggest, these skinks have crocodilian-like spines across their backs and war paint orange around their eyes. It is a shy and secretive species and spends most of its time hiding away (possibly to avoid predation due to its size). As well as their crocodilian looks, they are also very good swimmers and enjoy spending time in water.

Level of Experience	Beginner
Habitat	Tropical Rainforest
Life Span	8 years
Active Time of Day	Crepuscular
Natural Prey	Insects
Terrestrial / Semi Arboreal / Arboreal / Aquatic / Fossorial	Fossorial
Reproduction	Mate: Spring Lay: Summer
Clutch Size	Single egg every 5 weeks
Breeding Weights / Length / Age	Males: 35g+ / 8 inches / 3 years of age Females: 35g+ / 8 inches / 3 years of age
Brumation Time	N / A
Brumation Temperature	N / A
Incubation Time	2 – 2 ½ months
Incubation Temperature	22 – 27 'C

There are no different colour variations for this species.

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Captive Requirements and Welfare

Crocodile skinks don't need a majorly large enclosure as they like to be secretive and secure, so as long as plenty of hides are given to them, stress shouldn't be an issue. Lighting wise, a full spectrum of UVA/UVB would benefit the health of your skink. Since little is known about their lighting requirements, it's always beneficial to give them the best lighting to prevent any health issues (having UVB won't cause any harm so why not). Since hoppers can climb, crickets or mealworms would be a better suited diet as this species can easily catch insects that are restricted to the ground. Being a tropical forest species, they need a high humidity level of 70 – 90%. Occasional misting of the enclosure is important to maintain this high humidity level. Eco-earth/coco-fibre and orchid bark are ideal substrates to keep this humidity and also to prevent this species going off their food as they may do if they were housed on a non natural substrate.

Vivarium size	30x30x30cm for hatchling 2ft x 1.5ft x 1.5ft for adult
Daytime Temperature (cool – warm)	22 – 30 'C
Night-time Temperature	20 – 24 'C
Heating Equipment (on timer)	All in one bulb during the day, heat mat during the night
Substrate	Most Natural: Eco earth + orchid Bark Alternatives: Not Advised
Hides	2 at minimum: one on each side a 3 rd hide would be beneficial due to their secretive nature.
Decor	fake plants make these skinks feel more secure
Water	Fresh water topped up when needed, clean out water bowl every few days to prevent slime build up
Food (Feeding)	Small sized hoppers / crickets or mealworms every other day then increase as they grow. Waxworms as an occasional treat to vary the diet.