

# Red Eyed Crocodile Skink

(*Tribolonotus gracilis*)



<b>Adult Size</b>	7-9 inches	<b>Life Span</b>	10 years
<b>Male/Female Differences</b>	Males are generally larger, but a more accurate way to determine sex is by observing the underside of a male skink. They will have 4-6 large scales in the shape of rectangle on their stomach.		
<b>Compatibility</b>	Male skinks are aggressive towards each other and should not be housed together. A male and female have the potential to breed babies under ideal habitat conditions. Females can coexist, but it is hard to identify gender at an early age. This animal should not be housed with any other species of animal.		
<b>Origin</b>	New Guinea and Indonesia		
<b>Climate</b>	Densely covered ground level in high humidity forests. Typically closer to sources of water and under forest debris.		
<b>Day Cycle</b>	Crepuscular (Active at dusk/dawn).		
<b>Temperature</b>	75°-82°		
<b>Lighting</b>	Crocodile skinks do benefit from UVB lighting. Using a quality UVB full spectrum lamp can provide day time basking heat as well as UVB light rays. To ensure viability replace UVB bulb every 6 months. Remember to turn UVB/daytime off at night. An additional red/black heat lamp or heat pad should be provided to maintain nighttime temperatures.		
<b>Humidity</b>	80-90% Humidity is required for these tropical critters. Their substrate should be moistened 2-3 times daily to maintain a healthy level of humidity. Be careful and avoid over humidifying as saturated substrate can breed bacteria.		
<b>Habitat/Territory</b>	Tropical forests and coconut plantations.		

<b>Substrate/Bedding</b>	Coconut husk is the ultimate substrate to use for these skinks. Firstly they can be found natively in such habitats. On top of that coconut husk has the ability to hold moisture incredibly well, which is needed for this high humidity type animal.
<b>Hiding Place/Den</b>	Red eyed crocodile skinks like to stay hidden outside of their active hours. A hiding hut along with bountiful fake plants and branches to mimic their natural dense foliage habitat is recommended. The most important aspect of hiding places in a skink's tank is outside of it. Covering three of the four sides of your tank with a terrarium background is essential. This provides a sense of safety and cover for the reptile. Without it the skink may never come out of hiding as well as have trouble eating enough. Make sure to have a cozy, covered home for this scaly friend.
<b>Cage Type</b>	In theory a single skink can be housed in a 20 gallon terrarium. That being said once a pet owner provides an adequately sized water dish, food dish, and decorations, the tank usually lacks any extra space. We strongly encourage a 40 gallon terrarium or reptile tank 36" wide to house a fully grown skink. This tank size is adequate for young and adult lizards.
<b>Diet</b>	Insectivorous
<b>Supplements</b>	A mixture of phosphorus free calcium powder and vitamin powder should be alternated daily. Sprinkling these powders on insects prevents any vitamin deficiencies or Metabolic Bones Disease.
<b>Diet Precautions</b>	Avoid feeding bugs that are too large for the skink to consume in one bite. As with all reptiles impaction can occur when too large of food is provided.
<b>Feeding</b>	Make sure to rotate and vary the type of insect that you feed to ensure a complete nutritional diet. Mealworms, wax worms, crickets, calcium worms are all great options to rotate through. Earthworms in particular are a skink's favorite food!
<b>Water Source</b>	If you aren't using an aquarium where one side is dedicated to a few inches of basking/swimming space, one large water dish should be in every cage. Red eyed crocodile skinks spend loads of time soaking in water and will also submerge if scared. It is critical to provide a large pool with some type of branch or wood which they can easily use to climb in and out of. Water dechlorination drops or purified bottled water should be used for misting and water dishes. Any harsh water conditions can negatively affect your pet. The purified water also has the benefit of not leaving water marks on glass.

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<b>Grooming</b>	Red eyed crocodile skinks shed just as any other reptile. As long as proper humidity levels are maintained there shouldn't be any issues with shedding. If shed skin ever does get stuck take small tweezers and with the animal in warm water attempt to remove. This should be done as a last resort as this problem is uncommon if kept at proper humidity.
<b>Proper Handling</b>	Red eyed crocodile skinks have moderate handleability. They are very cool and we encourage customers to take them out for small intervals at a time. However handling for more than 10 minute can indeed stress the animal out.
<b>Habitat Maintenance</b>	Spot clean soiled areas and plants. Use vinegar to clean water spots on glass from misting. Every couple months replace substrate to prevent mold from growing. This is especially important as the substrate will be damp most of the time, and can grow mold more quickly than other terrariums. Reduce cleaning frequency by adding springtails and isopods to your biome. These are a safe and sustainable way to recycle and reduce animal waste.
<b>Health Concerns</b>	Calcium deficiency is the most common health concern. By following the above recommended calcium supplementation and proper UVB lighting it can be avoided entirely. The second most pressing issue is proper humidity. Find the balance between not soaking, nor bone dry substrate and you will have a happy, healthy crocodile skink!

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