

Green Spiny Lizard

The green spiny lizard is an attractive lizard. The mature males have a bright blue and green colouration while the females are less vibrant. They are native to southern Mexico and Central America and are used to high altitude cloud forests. These lizards can be expected to live between 5 to 10 years.

Another common name for this lizard is the emerald swift.



Glossary

Reptile – A cold-blooded vertebrate with scaly skin.

Amphibian – A cold-blooded vertebrate that begins life as an aquatic animal and grows into a terrestrial adult with lungs.

Terrestrial – A ground dwelling animal.

Arboreal – An animal that lives in trees.

Diurnal – Awake in the day.

Nocturnal – Awake during the night.

UVB – Ultraviolet radiation.

Colubrid – A family of snakes.

Hybrid – Offspring from animals of different species.

Morph – Colourations created due to genetics.

Musk – Unpleasant odour released when an animal is stressed or feels threatened.

Live plants are only available on special order

If you require any further information, please ask our pet care advisors who will be very happy to help.

Opening Times

Monday – Saturday: 9am – 6pm

Sunday: 9.30am – 4pm

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Green Spiny Lizard



Care & Advice Sheet

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Size & Housing

These lizards will rarely exceed 7 inches in length and the males are often larger than the females. Glass terrariums are recommended as they maintain humidity well but wooden vivariums can be used if humidity is monitored. These lizards are largely arboreal and will happily explore and climb so the larger the enclosure, the better. Males can be housed together providing that the enclosure is large enough. They will form a hierarchy of their own and will only become aggressive if there is not enough space for both males. We recommend at least a 36 x 24 x 24" enclosure for 2 males.

60 x 45 x 60cm / 24 x 18 x 24" – 1 Adult

90 x 45 x 60cm / 36 x 18 x 24" – 2-3 Adults



Substrate & Furnishings

Substrates that maintain high humidity are recommended such as cypress mulch, humus bricks or orchid bark with small amounts of moss. Live or artificial plants should be used with plenty of rocks, logs, bark and branches creating high climbing areas. Spot pick the enclosure daily and full clean once or twice a month using a reptile specific disinfectant.

Please Note – Not all live plants are reptile friendly.

Lighting & Temperature

Provide essential UVB (12% – 14% arcadia tubes) to create a daytime cycle of 10-12 hours a day. This is best controlled by a timer. They are most comfortable with a temperature around 32°C – achieve this by using a heat bulb or ceramic heat emitter with a guard controlled by a thermostat at all times. There should be a temperature gradient with 32°C being the hottest basking spot.

Food & Water

Emerald swifts are insectivores and should be a fed a variety of appropriate sized insects such as:

- Crickets
- Mealworms
- Roaches
- Locusts
- Waxworms (treat)

Insects should be gut loaded before feeding and dusted with a calcium supplement 3 times a week and multivitamins (Nutrobal) once a week. Fresh water should be offered daily. The enclosure should be misted 1-2 times a day to keep the humidity between 55-65%. The substrate should never be soggy but nearly dry before the next misting.

Handling

These lizards are best kept as attractive display animals. They are very quick and skittish and are unlikely to tolerate handling. Only handle when necessary such as cleaning or physical observations such as injuries.