

Annual breeding and keeper schedule

Egernia eppisulus | Current Northern Hemisphere keeper schedule

Habitat: Rocky ranges, banded-ironstone and granite outcrops - eastern Pilbara, Western Australia

A small live-bearing, crevice-dwelling skink requiring secure rock fissures, a measured hot-to-cool gradient, a dry ventilated enclosure and cautious seasonal cycling.

Month	Day ambient	Night	Basking	T5 UVI*	Photoperiod	Heat / UV	Feeding	Seasonal management
January	18-20 C	12-14 C	29-32 C	1	10 h	3 h	None or 1 small feed	Cool rest - healthy adults only
February	20-22 C	13-15 C	31-34 C	1-2	10 h 30 m	4 h	1-2 small feeds	Staged spring increase
March	23-25 C	15-17 C	34-36 C	2	11 h 30 m	6 h	2-3 feeds weekly	Emergence / conditioning
April	25-27 C	17-19 C	36-38 C	2-3	12 h 30 m	8 h	3 feeds weekly	Conditioning / courtship watch
May	27-29 C	19-21 C	38-40 C	2-3	13 h 15 m	9 h	3-4 feeds weekly	Primary courtship window
June	28-30 C	20-22 C	39-41 C	2-3	14 h	10 h	3-4 feeds weekly	Mating / gestation watch
July	29-31 C	21-23 C	40-42 C	3	14 h	10 h	4 feeds weekly	Peak activity / gestation
August	29-31 C	21-23 C	40-42 C	3	13 h 30 m	9-10 h	4 feeds weekly	Late gestation / births possible
September	27-29 C	19-21 C	38-40 C	2-3	13 h	9 h	3 feeds weekly	Births possible / recovery
October	24-26 C	17-19 C	35-37 C	2	12 h	7 h	2-3 feeds weekly	Autumn transition
November	21-23 C	14-16 C	32-34 C	1-2	11 h	5 h	1-2 feeds weekly	Taper heat and feeding
December	18-20 C	12-14 C	29-32 C	1	10 h	3 h	None or 1 small feed	Cool rest - monitor body mass

This table preserves the monthly values in the current webpage. The available older one-page PDF had a different calendar; it has been replaced to remove that file mismatch. T5 UVI measuring instructions and the monthly UV-only table follow on page 3.

Enclosure, feeding and breeding notes

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Rockwork and enclosure

Use about 120 x 60 x 60 cm as a working minimum for an established pair, with 150 x 75 x 60 cm or larger preferred. Anchor slate and rock structures from the enclosure floor and provide several tight crevices across the full thermal gradient.

Basking and UVB

During full activity provide a broad 38-42 C basking surface, warm-side air around 28-31 C and a cooler retreat around 23-26 C. Target UVI 2-3 at the basking position with complete shade inside refuges.

Diet

Use varied gut-loaded invertebrates as the active-season base. Offer safe leafy greens and flowers once or twice weekly, keep fruit rare, and do not rely on mealworms or other fatty larvae as staples.

Winter management

Reduce heat, light and feeding gradually. Use a conservative 12-14 C night minimum with a short daily basking opportunity rather than assuming a deep-brumation requirement. Feed small meals only while animals bask and digest normally.

Breeding and neonates

This is a live-bearing lineage, but direct species-level timing and litter data are limited. Treat April-June courtship and July-September births as a working hypothesis, and record actual mating, gestation and birth dates.

Keeper warning

Social housing may be appropriate but is not obligatory. Compatibility must be demonstrated through repeated observation. Separate for persistent chasing, crevice or basking exclusion, bites, food suppression or declining body mass.

UVI beneath the optional T5 tube

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Your measuring point

Measure UVI at normal back height directly beneath the brightest accessible part of the optional T5 strip. Place the strip toward the middle/back with free access to and away from it; preserve a gradient into fully covered refuges near UVI 0. These numbers describe the exposure area, not the whole enclosure or a daily average.

Measure and adjust

- 1. Use a UV Index meter.** A Solarmeter 6.5/6.5R or equivalent UVI meter is suitable. Broadband UVB readings in microwatts/cm2 cannot be substituted for UVI.
- 2. Measure the installed arrangement.** Warm the tube for about 30 minutes. Keep the reflector, guards and mesh in their normal positions. With the animal elsewhere, hold the sensor at its normal back height, aimed toward the tube.
- 3. Adjust the fixture.** Begin near the lower part of a newly selected working range and adjust gradually. Respect the lamp manufacturer's minimum distance. Recheck after each change and check every higher accessible branch, rock or platform.
- 4. Keep a full gradient.** Provide usable exposure across the animal's body, lower-UVI areas and fully covered refuges near UVI 0. For daytime baskers, overlap the UV area with visible light and appropriate basking warmth while retaining cooler shade.
- 5. Record and recheck.** Log UVI, measuring point, tube-to-back distance, tube age and lamp-on time. Recheck through the year and after changes to the tube, reflector, mesh or furnishings. Exposure duration and behaviour also determine dose.

A T5 range is a working exposure target, not a whole-cage setting, measured wild monthly average, guaranteed optimum or proven safety ceiling. The animal must be able to enter and leave freely.

Monthly target at normal back height

Month	UVI under T5 when on
January	1
February	1-2
March	2
April	2-3
May	2-3
June	2-3
July	3
August	3
September	2-3
October	2
November	1-2
December	1

Rebuild legacy PDF from current webpage

The available legacy one-page PDF has an older UVI and thermal calendar than the current webpage. Rebuild the PDF using the current webpage schedule and notes, retaining all current web targets: UVI 1-3 across the year with a 2-3 active-season patch. This is a file-consistency correction, not a new increase in the existing webpage recommendation.

Evidence level: Version consistency correction. The seasonal schedule is a captive operating plan; it is not measured wild monthly UV. Off means the existing planned UVB-off/rest phase is preserved. Any staged Off/1 entry still means gradual reintroduction.

UV references: Baines et al. (2016), UV-Tool; Muryn, Baines and Dishman (2026), Reptile Lighting Guide V10. Full rationale and monthly comparison: UVI_Audit_Report.html.