

Yellow-Throated Plated Lizard

Species: *flavigularis*

Genus: *Gerrhosaurus*

Family: Gerrhosauridae

Order: Squamata

Class: Reptilia

Phylum: Chordata

Kingdom: Animalia

Conditions for Customer Ownership

We hold permits allowing us to transport these organisms. To access permit conditions, [click here](#).

Never purchase living specimens without having a disposition strategy in place.

There are currently no USDA requirements for this organism. This organism must be housed in an escape-proof habitat. Do not release these organisms into the environment. This organism is restricted in the state of Ohio.

Primary Hazard Considerations

- As with many other reptiles, lizards carry salmonella bacteria, which can make people sick. To reduce the chance of infection, always wash your hands thoroughly before and after you handle your lizard, and after you handle its food or anything it has touched.
- The longer a lizard experiences gentle handling by humans, the less threatening it will find the experience. These animals are generally docile creatures and rarely bite. When they do bite, it is generally just a strong pinch that does not cause damage, but a large lizard that feels very threatened can draw blood. Plated lizards are autonomous, which means that they will drop their tail to escape capture. Be careful picking them up—lift them by placing your hand under the belly; never pick them up by the tail!

Availability

Yellow-throated plated lizards are wild-collected from Tanzania, and while we usually have them available, shortages can occur.

Arrival Care

Your lizard will be approximately 8–10 inches long when it arrives. It will arrive in a cloth reptile bag inside a shipping box. It should be removed from the shipping container as soon as possible and be placed into its new home. Lizards cannot survive for long in the shipping container after arrival. They should be placed into the habitat immediately upon arrival. Yellow-throated plated lizards range from 16–28 inches in length and from 2–4 inches in width, with the tail usually twice the length of the body. Their colors are many different shades of brown with two yellow stripes down their back.

Captive Care

Habitat:

- The size of the tank used to house the animals will vary. One lizard can be comfortably housed in a 10-gallon tank (21-5241), and two lizards can live in a 30-gallon long terrarium. An appropriate habitat is a glass or plastic terrarium with a firmly fitted ventilated top to prevent escape, such as Reptile Habitat. Make sure that your substrate is one that the lizard can dig into. One to two of inches of pine or hardwood shavings (not cedar—it is toxic to reptiles), peat moss (470006-560) or sterile soil make a good substrate. Hiding areas should be provided; they like to hide in paper towel rolls. These lizards need a bowl of water large enough for them to get into for drinking and bathing. Pie pans work well. The water needs to be changed daily as they will soil it with substrate while burrowing, and will use it as a latrine. The substrate should be replaced and the whole habitat washed on a monthly basis.

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- The overall temperature of the enclosure should be 80–85°F during the day and normal room temperature at night. A heat lamp (470308-864) focused onto a basking rock (like a flat piece of slate or sandstone) on one side of the habitat is the ideal way to allow the lizard to control its own body temperature by moving to the shade when it is overheating. This process is known as “thermoregulation.” An under-tank heater heat wave radiant heater (470021-334) can be used to keep the temperature up as well, and should be situated on the same side of the tank as the basking area. Heat rocks should not be used as reptiles can easily burn themselves on a heat rock. It is helpful to expose the lizard to fluorescent lighting to replicate the UV from the sun and provide the snake with otherwise unattainable vitamins.

Care:

- The yellow-throated plated lizard is an opportunistic omnivore and different lizards have different tastes. For the most part they eat insects. Occasionally they will take fruits or vegetables. Lizards should be fed insects every other day (about 4–5 at a time per lizard) with fruits and vegetables on the off days. Suitable insects include crickets (470180-336), waxworms (470184-798), silkworms (470183-790), cockroaches (470180-346), mealworms (470183-784) and superworms (470180-360). For fruits and vegetables, these lizards may eat grapes, carrots, peaches, banana, green beans, snap peas, and sweet potato to suggest a few possibilities available at your local grocery store. Insects may be dusted with a vitamin and mineral supplement (Reptivite Reptile Vitamins 470021-386) before given to the lizards. A bowl of fresh water should be provided daily as well.
- When they are shedding their skin, it is ideal to provide them with a shed box. You can make a shed box out of a plastic container with a lid and a hole cut in it so that the lizard can climb in. Fill it halfway with a sand and moss mixture, keep it moist, and place it in the warmer side of the tank. The moist heat will aid them in shedding.

Information

- **Method of reproduction:** Sexual. Yellow-Throated Plated Lizards mate only once a year in the summer. During that time, the male’s (the pursuer’s) head changes color. The head changes color anywhere from a flaming red or to a blazing yellow or even to a pale blue. The female lizard lays 2–6 eggs and places them underground.
- **Determining sex:** Males have fringes on their hind legs known as spores and are generally larger than females. It is generally difficult to be able to tell what sex your lizard is without another one of the opposite gender for comparison. The only foolproof way to determine this lizard’s gender is with a blood test.

Life Cycle

- Hatchling lizards are about 4" long. The lifespan of these lizards is generally 8–12 years, but since they are wild-caught it is impossible to predict how long one will live in the classroom.
- **Wild Habitat:** Yellow-Throated Plated Lizards are usually found in rocky and mountainous grass country in Southern Africa. They usually prefer dry, open places. They are ground dwellers that live in burrows and termite mounds. The plated lizard is an excellent swimmer and diver.

Special Notes

The name is derived from the large bony plates or osteoderms located underneath the scales of the lizard.

Disposition

We do not recommend releasing any laboratory animal into the wild. As a laboratory animal, it has not encountered or learned wild survival skills and is therefore likely to come to an inhumane end.

- Adoption is the preferred disposition for a vertebrate.
- If the animal cannot be adopted by a capable owner, it may be surrendered to your local humane society.
- If the animal must be euthanized, we recommend consulting the AVMA guidelines on euthanasia (American Veterinary Medical Association, [Guidelines-on-Euthanasia-2020.pdf](#)).
- According to these guidelines, acceptable methods of euthanasia for an amphibian include exposure to CO₂ at >60% or treatment with tricaine methane sulfonate (also known as TMS, MS-222 and Biocalm 947-2100). TMS is an anesthetizing agent that will cause fish and amphibian death due to central nervous system depression and hypoxia with overexposure. Wear personal protective equipment (gloves, safety glasses, lab coat) when handling this substance. The fish or amphibian is placed in a solution of 5g per 5 gallons of water for 30 minutes or until all motion has ceased. To make sure the animal is dead, check for reflexive movement when the eye is touched. If movement occurs, replace the animal in the TMS solution for another 30 minutes.
- A deceased specimen should be disposed of as soon as possible. Consult your school's recommended procedures for disposal. In general, a dead vertebrate should be handled with gloves, and wrapped in an absorbent material (e.g., newspaper), wrapped again in an opaque plastic bag, then placed inside a opaque plastic bag that is sealed (tied tightly) before being placed in a general garbage container away from students.