

## **ALLIGATOR LIZARD**

REPTILIA

SQUAMATA

ANGUIDAE

*Gerrhonotus*

**GEOGRAPHIC RANGE:** Native to the United States and Mexico, ranging from places such as Washington to northern Baja California to isolated regions within the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

**HABITAT:** The Alligator Lizard lives in coastal sage, grasslands, oak and pine woodlands and forests. They also can be found in plant cover near water in drier areas, under wood piles and debris as well as in dense ground cover.

**NICHE:** They will thrive in a semi-moist environment with low climbing structures and hiding places. They also enjoy moist potting soil with cypress mulch and orchid bark with bark slabs and branches.

**DIET:** Alligator Lizards are carnivorous and feeds on various prey, some of which include insects and their larvae, ground beetles, grasshopper, crickets and ichneumon wasps. They also like black widow spiders, centipedes, scorpions and sow bugs.

### **PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS & ADAPTATIONS:**

Description: The Alligator Lizard has a slender, snake-like body. It has short legs, a large head and a slightly forked tongue. It is brown, gray, red or yellow on the upper side with vertical crossbars that are white. They have a skin fold that runs down both sides of the length of the body which allow for flexibility when the lungs expand.

Weight: 31 grams

Habits and Adaptations: With the Alligator Lizard's tongue being slightly forked at the tip, they can accumulate air-borne scents. When they are threatened by a predator, they open their mouths and show their teeth. When they are caught, they will shed their tails.

**DENTITION:** The Alligator Lizard's teeth are very sharp and they have very strong jaw muscles. When caught they will bite.

**SOCIAL BEHAVIOR:** The Alligator Lizard is territorial as they tend to inhabit the same space for many years. When they are caught, they may defecate on their predator. As mentioned above, they will shed their tails as well.

**REPRODUCTIVE INFORMATION:** The Alligator Lizard mates in early spring. Sometimes females will share egg-laying sites, normally laying 5 to 20 eggs during the months of May, June and July. The eggs will hatch after 11 weeks, weighing approximately .55 grams.

**LIFE SPAN:** 5 to 10 years

**MISCELLANEOUS:** Alligator Lizards feeding on other lizards is most likely due to them being very active. They can also consume animals that are near their own body length.

## **SCHNEIDER'S SKINK**

REPTILIA

SQUAMATA

SCINCIDAE

*Skink*

**GEOGRAPHIC RANGE:** Found in dry, brushy areas and rocky steppes.

**HABITAT:** The Schneider's Skink lives in scrublands, grassy lands, dry areas where sand is present. They can also be found in cultivated areas and in areas that contain cypress mulch and different types of rock structures.

**NICHE:** Primarily terrestrial, the Schneider's Skink enjoys being in a garden, any dry grassland or on a rocky structure.

**DIET:** Diet primarily consists of meal worms, crickets or ants. As they are omnivores, they like to consume insects, grass, fruit and berries as well.

### **PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS & ADAPTATIONS:**

Description: The Schneider's Skink has a long body with smooth, shiny scales. The head is pointy and the neck is very short. The openings of the ears are covered with scales to prevent sand from entering them when burrowing. An orange or yellow line runs across the side.

Weight: 90 grams

Habits and Adaptations: Schneider's Skinks blend well with their environments because of their coloring. They enjoy burrowing beneath rocks and within sand. Males are very territorial and should be kept separately. They will become passive one week before shedding.

**DENTITION:** The Schneider's Skink's teeth are very sharp. As they are omnivores, they can eat both plants and animals and their teeth allow for this.

**SOCIAL BEHAVIOR:** Males are territorial so they should be kept apart. Females can fight but they are less likely to be violent. They enjoy their own space and do not like to be overcrowded. They also enjoy being social at times.

**REPRODUCTIVE INFORMATION:** Schneider's Skinks mate between the months of April and May. The male clings to the female's neck during the mating process. Eggs are laid 4 to 6 weeks after mating, and each group contains 1 to 5 eggs. They breed once every three years.

**LIFE SPAN:** Up to 20 years

**MISCELLANEOUS:** Most Schneider's Skinks in the pet trade are wild caught as opposed to captive bred.

**SERC ANIMALS:** Malcolm, male