



BROWN BASILISK

Basiliscus vittatus

ORIGIN: Brown basilisks are native to southern Mexico and parts of Central America, south into Colombia. They are semi-arboreal and semi-aquatic, typically inhabiting dense tropical rainforests.

SIZE: Brown basilisks reach an average adult length of 2.5 to 3 feet. Males are typically larger and will develop raised dorsal and caudal fins.

CAGING: Brown basilisks may be successfully kept in a variety of enclosures which retain humidity. Juveniles can live in a 20-gallon aquarium, but a pair of adults will require at least a 55-gallon aquarium or custom built enclosure.

SUBSTRATE: Brown basilisks can be kept on a variety of substrates including soil, mulch, peat moss, bark, cage carpet, and newspaper. The substrate should retain humidity and be easily cleaned.

TEMPERATURE: Brown basilisks should be provided with a thermal gradient ranging from 80°F at one end of the cage to 95°F at the other. This is easily achieved by placing a heat light at one end of the enclosure.

LIGHT: Brown basilisks require full-spectrum lighting to properly synthesize calcium and other vitamins. This can be provided with a variety of commercial light bulbs made for reptiles. A basking area must be provided with a heat lamp. Lights should be left on only during the day.

WATER: Brown basilisks should be provided with fresh, clean water at all times. Use a water dish which allows the lizard to submerge its entire body. In addition, the cage should be misted at least once daily to maintain humidity levels at above 60%.

DIET: Brown basilisks feed on a variety of commercially available feeder insects including mealworms, crickets, and wax worms. Prior to feeding, insects should be dusted with a vitamin and mineral supplement powder for reptiles.

RECOMMENDED SUPPLIES

- Enclosure as detailed above
- Heat lamp
- UV emitting light
- Thermometer with probe to monitor temperature at both ends of enclosure
- Substrate as detailed above
- Literature about basilisk husbandry
- Large water dish
- Vitamin and mineral supplement
- Branches and vines for climbing
- Spray bottle

OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES

- Night light for nighttime viewing
- Silk plants and branches
- Decorative cage background
- Misting or Drip system
- Artificial waterfall

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NOTE: The information contained in this caresheet solely represents the opinions of the author. It is not intended as a complete guide to captive husbandry.