

Keeping of minor lizard (*Sceloporus minor* Cope, 1885) at BION Terrarium Center

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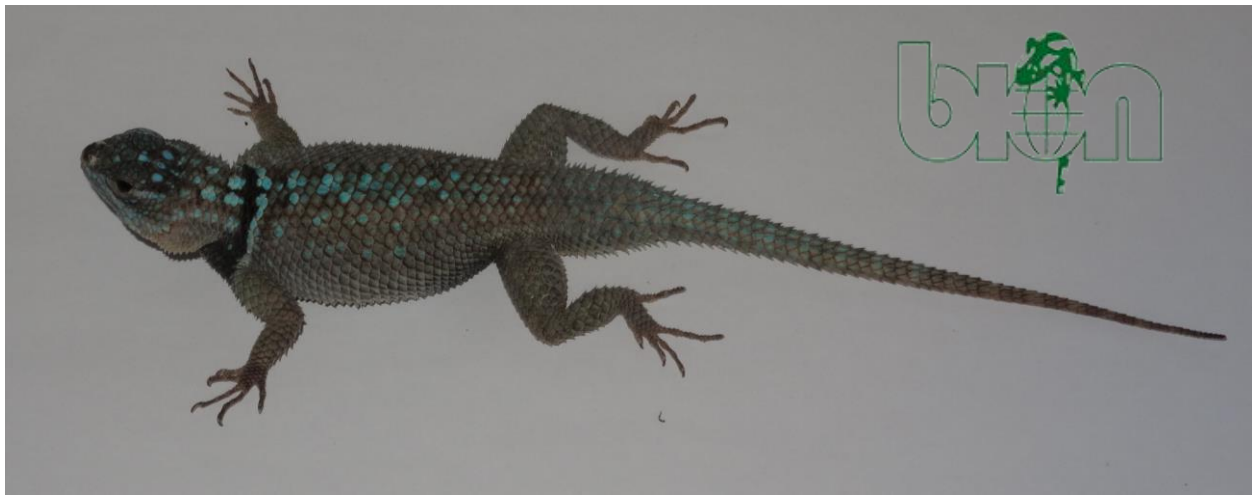
DESCRIPTION, DISTRIBUTION AND BIOLOGY

Sceloporus minor Cope, 1885 is a species of small sized Iguanidae lizards of the Phrynosomatidae family. They are most often found at altitudes between 3000 and 3470 m a. s. l. in arid semi-desert regions of Mexico (Northern Quéretaro and Guanajuato, Western Zacatecas, most of San Luis Potosí, to Western Nuevo León, Tamaulipas, Coahuila, Hidalgo, Jalisco, Aguascalientes). The name is the Latin noun minor, "little," and may have referred to a perceived lesser version of *Sceloporus torquatus* Wiegmann, 1828. (<https://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/species?genus=Sceloporus&species=minor>; Webb, Axtell, 1994; Lemos-Espinal, Smith, 2007; Arenas-Monroy et al., 2012). They inhabit stony places that warm up well with a large number of shelters and sparse vegetation (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spiny_lizard).



Current distribution of *S. minor*.

Males weigh about 18.9 g, having snout-to-vent length (SVL) of about 8,5 cm (3.34 in) and a total length of about 17,3 cm (6.81 in). Females weigh less on average - about 14 g. Their SVL is about 7,2 cm (2.83 in), and the total length of 16,1 cm (6.33 in).



Male of *S. minor*.

The color varies from ash gray to brown outside the mating season when, males turn blue starting from the throat and sometimes can turn completely blue, with the appearance of purple hues. The back can acquire orange and reddish hues. In the cervical region there is a dark, almost black, "collar". Sometimes males can demonstrate well-seen blue spots on the back outside the mating time. Females usually remain greyish or brownish throughout a year (García-Rosales et al., 2019).



Female of *S. minor*.

These reptiles are very skittish, demonstrating extremely fast moving when scared. They can quickly run away from the terrarium when cleaning or feeding. The same applies to babies. Therefore, one should be very careful when working with these lizards. It is not recommended to keep them in large groups, as cases of aggression (usually among males) are possible. Babies should be removed from the terrarium with their parents immediately after being discovered, as cannibalism is quite common for this species. These omnivorous, diurnal lizards are most active in the morning (Concepción Puga y Colmenares, 2019; García-Rosales et al., 2019).

KEEPING AT BION TERRARIUM CENTER

ADULTS

Keeping. We keep our breeding stock of *S. minor* in pairs (1.1) or trios (1.2) in glass terrariums of 90*60*50 cm (35.43*23.62*19.68 in) with flow ventilation that consists of roof made of fine metal wire net and the same area in lower front part of the terrarium.



Inner part of a terrarium for *S. minor* 1.2 breeding group.

Decoration includes rocky elements, vertical imitations of stony walls, ceramic sherds as hiding places, hollow stones etc. Water and feeding dish are always presented inside the terrarium. We use 1-2 cm (0.39-0.78 in) of dried clay as substrate.

Temperature. We keep fairly high ambient temperatures of +28 - +30 °C (82.4-86.0 F) at daytime. At night time temperatures do not get lower than +25 °C (77.0 F). Temperature at basking spot is about +45 °C (113.0 F).

Lighting. Lighting period is 12-14 hours. We use Salvinia Reptistar 36W UVB 10.0 lamp and simple incandescent 60W lamp for heat source.

Humidity. Humidity level is 50-60%. We do light spraying once a day allowing the inner decoration to dry out. This is also the source of water for the reptiles. Water dish is obligatory.

Diet. We offer insects (crickets and cockroaches of appropriate size) once or twice a week. Finely chopped salad mix (dandelion, nettle, arugula, mint, clover,

carrots) is offered 3-4 times per week. All food items are dusted with calcium powder or Repashy Superfoods.

References

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