



Sudan Plated Lizard

Gerrhosaurus major



Mandinka

I was born on **August 16th, 2014**. I arrived at the Racine Zoo in 2015. You can come and visit me in the Discovery Center near the front entrance.

I am usually a little shy, and prefer to keep to myself.

SUDAN PLATED LIZARD AT A GLANCE



- Males are larger than females and during breeding season sport bright-colored throats.
- Plated lizards have large ears compared to most reptiles.
- Sudan plated lizards are covered in bands of square scales that resemble plates.
- Diet in the wild consists of plants, insects, and small vertebrates (including other lizards and snakes)

Male & Female:
1-2.2 ft



Avg. life expectancy in native habitats:
10 years
Avg. life expectancy in human care:
20+ years



WHERE ARE SUDAN PLATED LIZARDS NATIVE HABITATS LOCATED?



Sudan Plated Lizard have historically lived in semi-arid steppes and savannahs. Their geographic range is found south of the Sahara, in Eastern and Southeastern Africa.

Sudan Plated Lizard Behaviors

SLEEPING

We need about 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of nighttime.

If we're sleeping, that means we're feeling safe and comfortable.



HIDING

Sudan Plated Lizards are not overly social creatures even though they often found in large groups.

Most keep to themselves and are very shy and skiddish of new people or things.



DEFENSE

Sudan plated lizards have very long, sharp-scaled tails they use in a whip-like fashion to scare off predators. When threatened, they will first run, before stopping to raise their tails in warning.

Plated lizards can shed their tail to escape predators



TAIL LOSS

Tail loss (and regrowth) may shorten overall life expectancy. Among other reasons for this is the fact that fat reserves are stored in the tail.

Loss of these reserves decreases survival during winter. A missing tail also increases difficulty in finding a mate.

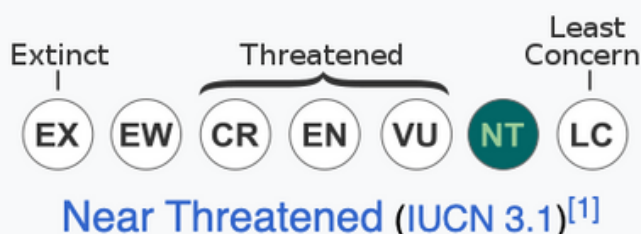


- The Sudan plated lizard's head scales are fused to its skull.
- Plated lizards are diurnal, meaning that they are active during the day.
- Plated lizards live in burrows or termite mounds that are often also inhabited by other animals, like snakes.
- Plated lizards have a groove, called the "relief groove," that runs laterally along the length of the body. The relief groove contains skin with no scales. It allows for expansion, which helps plated lizards hide from predators. When threatened, they will run into a rocky hill and hide inside the crack of a rock. They then fill their lungs with air to wedge themselves in place.

Sudan Plated Lizard Conservation

Sudan Plated Lizards are very important to their habitat as they regulate the population of small rodents, birds, and lizards. They also serve as prey to several avian and terrestrial predators.

Sudan Plated Lizards are currently listed as **Least Concern**. They face threats such as being collected for the pet trade, as they are difficult to breed in captivity.



How can we help?

Wild populations are in decline due to a large number of animals exported. If you are considering any exotic animal as a pet, make sure to research the species, be able to provide adequate husbandry needs, and acquire one from a reputable captive bred source. Animals that are taken from the wild do not make good pets!