**Mali Uromastyx**

**Native to:** North Africa

**Predators:** snakes, birds, other lizards, small mammals

**Prey:** Primarily herbivores but will eat small insect and other animals in the wild

**Facts:**

* They are active during the day time and usually hang out on rocks to sun themselves. Their scales go darker in the beginning of the dark to be able to absorb more sunlight then they change to lighter colors as the day goes on.
* The females of the species are usually a bit smaller and less colorful than the males in the wild.
* They can grow up to 15 to 20 inches in length.
* Their long club like tails are used to defend off predators by whipping it at the predator.
* These lizards are burrowers in the wild and spend much of the night and day underground or away from the external temperatures and weather.
* They are commonly hunted for a food source for native peoples of Northern Africa.

**Defense Mechanisms:**

* Their tails for whipping

**Reproduction:**

* Females can lay up 40 eggs under the sand or in a burrow so they are out of the heat of the desert to not dry out.

**Lifespan:**  8 to 12 years in the wild 15-20 years in captivity

**Handling Tips:**

The Mali is extremely docile once out of her enclosure she can be very fast so make sure not to let her go and keep slight pressure on her when she is out.