**Jeweled Lacerta**

**Native to:** Native to Spain, Portugal, and Italy

**Predators:**  Birds, Snakes, Small Mammals

**Food:**  Small insects, eggs, berries, other fruits .

**Facts:**.

* They are one of largest species of Lacerta Lizard they can grow to about a foot in length and can weight almost a 1lb.
* They prefer to live in brush forest or near vineyards where they will burrow of protection and come out to bask on rocks during the day time.
* Their tail makes up over a third of their body length alone.
* Even though they are burrowers and spend most of their time on the ground they capable of climbing surfaces like rocks and branches.
* They extremely fast lizards and rely on their speed for protection from other predators.
* In Spain Lacerta’s were once a common part of their native cuisine.
* Now they are protected in a large portion of their range due to them being considered Near Threatened in the wild.

**Defense Mechanisms:**

* Camouflage
* Speed

**Reproduction:**

Females lay a clutch of eggs sometimes up to 22 eggs in the Months of June and July.

**Lifespan:** Can live for about 12 to 20 years in captivity

**Handling Tips**

Our Jeweled Lacerta is not the easiest to handle. I would suggest wearing gloves while handling him because he is prone to bite and making sure you have a good enough hold around his body so he does not escape.