

European Legless Lizard

Ophisaurus apodus

Description: A snake-like lizard with no legs or tiny remnants of legs.

Range: Southern Europe to Central Asia

Habitat: Short grasslands or sparsely wooded hills

Diet: Small mammals, snails, & arthropods

Weight: 200-400 grams

Length: 35-40 inches

Lifespan: Up to 20 years

Status: Least concern

Predators: Carnivores and birds of prey

Threats: Caught for the pet trade; sometimes killed due to resemblance to snakes

Relatives: Member of the family Anguillidae. Related to other members of this family including western alligator lizards and slow worms.

Breeding: Males compete for mating rights. Females lay around 8 eggs after a gestation of 10 weeks. Offspring hatch in 45 - 55 days. The female protects her eggs and only leaves occasionally for food.

Quick Facts:

- Also called "glass lizards" for their ability to break off a portion of their tail if threatened.

Conservation: European legless lizards are of Least Concern, although they have been known to be caught for the pet trade. It is important when acquiring a reptile as a pet that it is coming from an ethical source.

GSC's Residents:

Name: Leggy

Date of Birth: July 2003 to July 2005

Sex: Male

Origin: Acquired from Gladsher



Sources:

http://digimorph.org/specimens/Ophisaurus_apodus/

<https://americanreptiles.com/products/balkan-giant-legless-lizards-ophisaurus-apodus-thraceus>

<https://www.saczoo.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/European-Legless-Lizard-Factsheet.pdf>

<https://www.britannica.com/animal/glass-lizard>

<https://www.snaketracks.com/european-legless-lizard/>