herpy

AGAMAS

Green Pricklenape

Acanthosaura capra

Acanthosaura capra is a green forest agamid with a crest of long spines on the nape and a spine behind each eye, native to the humid forests of southern Vietnam and eastern Cambodia. It grows to 25-32 cm, lives in the trees and needs a tall, humid and relatively cool enclosure where the air never gets warmer than 29 °C.

Family: Agamidae Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**25-32 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest and montane forest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**100 × 50 × 120 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**22-27 °C**
Basking spot	**30-32 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**70-90%**
Water	**Water section**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**6-15 eggs**
Incubation	**110-180 days** at 25-27 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Near Threatened (NT)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

An adult needs a tall enclosure of at least 100 × 50 × 120 cm (length × width × height). Height matters more than floor area, because the species uses the vertical surfaces.

TEMPERATURE

Acanthosaura capra tolerates heat poorly. The air in the enclosure should be 22-27 °C during the day and must never get warmer than 29 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Humidity should be 70-80 % during the day and around 90 % or more at night. Mist the enclosure thoroughly with soft water 2-3 times a day, so that droplets hang on plants and walls.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is diurnal but lives in the shade of the forest and needs relatively weak UVB. Use a T5 HO tube of 6 % (Ferguson zone 2) in a reflective fitting over the mesh, covering about half the length of the enclosure.

FEEDING

The species feeds on insects and other small animals and is especially fond of worms. Give a varied diet of crickets, cockroaches, grasshoppers, silkworms, black soldier fly larvae, earthworms and slugs.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Acanthosaura capra is a calm forest agamid that is shy in the wild but quickly gets used to people in the enclosure. It often sits completely still on a branch or trunk and rarely moves fast.

NATIVE RANGE

Cambodia and Vietnam.