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AGAMAS

Brown Pricklenape

Acanthosaura lepidogaster

Acanthosaura lepidogaster is a grey-green to brown forest agamid with a spine behind each eye and a low crest of spines on the nape. It is found from southern China through Vietnam and Laos to Thailand and Myanmar. The species grows to 20-28 cm, lives in the undergrowth and on the forest floor and needs a humid, relatively cool enclosure where the air does not get warmer than 28 °C.

Family: Agamidae Former name: *Acanthosaura lamnidentata; Acanthosaura fruhstorferi; Acanthosaura braueri* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**20-28 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rainforest and montane forest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**100 × 50 × 100 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**20-26 °C**
Basking spot	**28-30 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-21 °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	**6-12 eggs**
Incubation	**110-130 days** at 25-27 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

An adult needs an enclosure of at least 100 × 50 × 100 cm (length × width × height). The species uses both the branches and the floor, so floor area is just as important as height. A pair needs more space.

TEMPERATURE

Acanthosaura lepidogaster tolerates heat poorly. The air in the enclosure should be 20-26 °C during the day and must not get warmer than 28 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Humidity should be 70-80 % during the day and ideally around 90 % 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 only 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. Give a varied diet of crickets, cockroaches, grasshoppers, silkworms, earthworms and small slugs.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Acanthosaura lepidogaster is a calm forest agamid that often sits completely still on a branch, a trunk or the floor. It rarely moves fast. When frightened, it darkens, flares the nape crest or opens its mouth wide.

NATIVE RANGE

China, Laos, Myanmar (Burma), Thailand and Vietnam.