herpy

AGAMAS

Giant Forest Dragon

Gonocephalus grandis

Gonocephalus grandis is a large, slender forest dragon from the rainforests of South-East Asia, where the male shifts between bright green, blue and almost black. It reaches 50-60 cm and lives in the trees along streams. The species requires a tall, humid and well-ventilated enclosure with running water, and the animals sold are usually wild-caught and delicate. It is only for experienced keepers.

Family: Agamidae Former name: *Dilophyrus grandis; Goniocephalus grandis; Gonyocephalus grandis* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**50-60 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**8-15 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and semi-aquatic**
Habitat	**Rainforest and wetland**
Difficulty	**Expert**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**120 × 60 × 150 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**22-28 °C**
Basking spot	**30-32 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**80-95%**
Water	**Water section**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**6-12 eggs**
Incubation	**60-120 days** at 26-28 °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 120 × 60 × 150 cm (length × width × height). Height is more important than floor area, because the species is arboreal and the male will sit high.
TEMPERATURE	The air should be 22-28 °C by day and must not exceed 30 °C. Under a spotlight there can be a warmer patch of 30-32 °C where the animal can bask briefly. The night should be cooler, 18-22 °C and preferably down to 16 °C in winter.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be 80-95 %, and figures go up to 98 %. Mist the enclosure thoroughly morning and evening, or use a fogging or rain system on a timer.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	The species likes to sit in slowly flowing water, and it almost always deposits its droppings in the water. A tub or pool in the bottom of the enclosure with a small waterfall or a pump is therefore necessary.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species needs UVB and full-spectrum light. It belongs to Ferguson zone 2, a lizard that basks in partial sun or occasionally. Mount the UVB tube so that the animal can get close, but can also hide in shade.
FEEDING	The species is mainly insectivorous. The food must be live and varied: crickets, cockroaches, grasshoppers, mealworms, larvae, snails and earthworms. Some animals occasionally take a small newborn mouse, but it is not necessary.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The animal is shy, fast and can bite hard. It is suited to being watched, not to being picked up.
NATIVE RANGE	Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei.