herpy

AGAMAS

Armored Pricklenape

Acanthosaura armata

Acanthosaura armata is an olive-green to pale green forest agamid with two pairs of spines on the head and nape. It lives in the lowland and foothill forests of the Malay Peninsula, southern Thailand and Myanmar, Sumatra and Hainan. The species reaches about 30 cm and is rare in captivity, so its care draws on the related *Acanthosaura capra* and *Acanthosaura crucigera*, adjusted for a warmer climate.

Family: Agamidae Former name: *Agama armata*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**25-30 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**100 × 50 × 120 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**24-28 °C**
Basking spot	**30-32 °C**
Temperature, night	**21-24 °C**
Humidity	**70-90%**
Water	**Water section** depth 5-15 cm
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	Little is known about the care of *Acanthosaura armata*, and the species is rare in captivity.
TEMPERATURE	*Acanthosaura armata* needs 24-28 °C by day and 21-24 °C at night.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity for *Acanthosaura armata* should be 70-90%, highest at night; the figure is borrowed from the other species of the genus and suits the humid lowland forest.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Acanthosaura armata* is diurnal but lives in the shade of the forest. UVB is beneficial; Ferguson zone 2 is borrowed from *A. capra*.
FEEDING	*Acanthosaura armata* feeds on insects and other small animals, and the genus is especially fond of worms. Give a varied diet of crickets, cockroaches, grasshoppers, beetles, larvae, earthworms and slugs.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Acanthosaura armata* is a secretive animal that sits still on a branch or on the ground and relies on its camouflage. If it is discovered, it rears up, inflates its throat pouch and opens its mouth.
NATIVE RANGE	China, Myanmar (Burma), Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.