herpy

AGAMAS

Boulenger's Pricklenape

Acanthosaura crucigera

Acanthosaura crucigera is a brown to greyish-green forest agama with a dark, cross-shaped mark on the nape, a spine behind each eye and a high crest of spikes on the neck. It lives in mountain forests from Myanmar and Thailand to northern Malaysia and Cambodia, reaches around 25 cm and uses both trunks and the forest floor. It needs a tall, humid and cool enclosure where the air never gets warmer than 28 °C.

Family: Agamidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**25-26 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 × 120 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**22-26 °C**
Basking spot	**28-30 °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	**6-12 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	The care of *Acanthosaura crucigera* is described in only a few sources.
TEMPERATURE	*Acanthosaura crucigera* tolerates heat poorly. The air in the enclosure should be 22-26 °C by day and must not get warmer than 28 °C. If it gets warmer for any length of time, there is a risk of heatstroke, stress and dehydration.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be 70-90 % around the clock, with the highest values at night and in the morning. Mist the enclosure thoroughly with soft water a couple of times a day, so that droplets hang on plants and walls.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is active by day, 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 around half the length of the enclosure.
FEEDING	The species takes almost anything it can overpower: crickets, cockroaches, locusts, silkworms, black soldier fly larvae, earthworms and small slugs.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Acanthosaura crucigera* relies on its camouflage and often sits perfectly still on a trunk or on the floor. If it is spotted, it darkens, rises up on its front legs, spreads its throat pouch and opens its mouth.
NATIVE RANGE	Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar (Burma) and Thailand.