herpy

AGAMAS

## Chameleon Forest Dragon

# *Gonocephalus chamaeleontinus*

*Gonocephalus chamaeleontinus* is a slender, green forest agama with a tall crest of pointed spines along the neck and back. It lives in the rainforest of Java and Sumatra, sits vertically on the trunks and reaches 30-40 cm in length. The species needs a tall, well-ventilated glass enclosure, constantly high humidity and water droplets to drink from. Animals in the trade are usually wild-caught, so the species is only for experienced keepers.

Family: Agamidae  Former name: *Agama tigrina; Iguana chamaeleontina*

**KEY FACTS**

### THE ANIMAL

| | |
|---|---|
| Adult size | **30-40 cm**<br>total length incl. tail |
| Weight | **100-120 g** |
| Lifespan | **8-15 years** |
| Active | **By day** |
| Lifestyle | **Arboreal** |
| Habitat | **Rainforest** |
| Difficulty | **Experienced** |

### CARE

| | |
|---|---|
| Min. enclosure | **60 × 60 × 120 cm**<br>L × W × H for 1 adult |
| Temperature, day | **24-27 °C** |
| Basking spot | **30-35 °C** |
| Temperature, night | **21-24 °C** |
| Humidity | **80-95%** |
| Water | **Water dish** |
| UVB | **Recommended**<br>Ferguson zone 2 |
| Diet | **Insects and worms/snails** |
| Kept | **Singly or one male with several females** |

### BREEDING

| | |
|---|---|
| Reproduction | **Egg-laying** |
| Clutch size | **4-13 eggs** |
| Clutches per year | **1-2** |
| Incubation | **70-90 days**<br>at 25-26 °C |

### PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

## Care at a glance

**THE ENCLOSURE**
An adult needs a glass enclosure of at least 60 × 60 × 120 cm (length × width × height). The species is arboreal, so height is important, and a tall enclosure also provides a vertical temperature gradient.

**TEMPERATURE**
By day the temperature should be 24-27 °C. Under a spot there should be a basking spot of 30-35 °C, and the animal must always be able to choose a cooler position higher or lower in the enclosure.

**HUMIDITY AND WATER**
Humidity should be high all year, approx. 80-95 %. The figure is an estimate and corresponds to what applies to *Gonocephalus grandis*. An automatic misting system is the best solution.

**WATER AND WATER QUALITY**
In addition to the droplets, a large water bowl should stand in the enclosure, no deeper than the animal can easily climb out of. Change the water regularly.

**LIGHTING AND UVB**
The species needs UVB and a basking spot. Use a high-output UVB tube (T5 HO) so the animal can produce D3 and absorb calcium, which is particularly important for young animals.

**FEEDING**
The species is an insectivore and in the wild eats snails, worms and insects. In captivity it takes earthworms, waxworms, mealworms and crickets.

**BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING**
The animal is shy and prefers to sit completely still. It is suited to being watched rather than handled. Work calmly when you open the enclosure, and keep to what is necessary. The male is territorial and displays to other males.

**NATIVE RANGE**
Indonesia and Malaysia.