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AGAMAS

Abrolhos Bearded Dragon

Pogona minima

Pogona minima is a small, diurnal bearded dragon that lives only on the Wallabi Islands in the Houtman Abrolhos off the coast of Western Australia. It is about 11 cm from snout to vent, has long legs and tail and only a weak beard. There is almost no husbandry experience, so this guide is based on its closest relatives.

Family: Agamidae Former name: *Amphibolurus barbatus minimus; Amphibolurus minimus; Pogona minor minima*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**25-30 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Semi-desert**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**120 × 60 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**24-37 °C**
Basking spot	**40-45 °C**
Temperature, night	**13-24 °C**
Humidity	**30-50%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects and plants**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**5-19 eggs**
Incubation	**58-64 days** at 29 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Not Evaluated (NE)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Pogona minima*, and the species is hardly described from captivity.
TEMPERATURE	Heat with at least two halogen spotlights over the basking spot. The surface there should be 40-45 °C measured with an infrared thermometer, and the warm patch must be at least as large as the whole animal.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be 30-50 %, measured at the cool end, and the enclosure must be able to dry out. Stagnant, wet air and a wet substrate cause illness.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Pogona minima* is diurnal and needs strong, white light. The basking spot should be the brightest place, and 75-100 % of the length of the enclosure should be lit.
FEEDING	*Pogona minima* is fed like *Pogona minor*: mostly insects and a smaller share of greens. Hatchlings (under 3 months): insects 2-3 times a day and greens daily. Juveniles (3-12 months): insects and greens daily.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Pogona minima* is diurnal and basks a lot. Its body language is known from other bearded dragons: head-bobbing at rivals and waving a foreleg as a sign of submission.
NATIVE RANGE	Australia.