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CHAMELEONS

Brown Leaf Chameleon

Brookesia superciliaris

Brookesia superciliaris is one of the largest leaf chameleons and reaches 9-10 cm in total. It lives in the leaf litter of Madagascar's eastern rainforests, is brown like a dead leaf and has large bony knobs above the eyes. The species is kept in a small, humid enclosure with a deep layer of leaf litter and small feeder insects. It has a reputation for being difficult, but is now bred regularly in small numbers.

Family: Chamaeleonidae Former name: *Chamaeleo superciliaris*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**9-10 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**2-4 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rainforest and montane forest**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**40 × 30 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**20-25 °C**
Temperature, night	**16-20 °C**
Humidity	**70-95%**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**4-5 months**
Clutch size	**2-5 eggs**
Clutches per year	**2-3**
Incubation	**45-120 days** at 18-27 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little consolidated knowledge exists about the care of *Brookesia superciliaris*.
TEMPERATURE	The daytime temperature should be 20-25 °C and the night temperature 16-20 °C, as in the rainforest of the highlands. The drop at night comes by itself when the lamps are switched off.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be 70-95 %, highest just after misting and at night. Mist the enclosure thoroughly at least twice a day with lukewarm water. The animals drink droplets from the leaves and do not use a bowl.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is diurnal and lives in shade.
FEEDING	The species eats small insects: fruit flies, springtails, small crickets, bean beetles and small cockroaches. The prey must be no more than about 20 % of the animal's body length.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is kept singly. It is shy but lively and is easily stressed by disturbance and touch, so it should not be picked up. When in danger it may vibrate.
NATIVE RANGE	Madagascar.