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CHAMELEONS

Boettger's Chameleon

Calumma boettgeri

Calumma boettgeri is one of the smallest chameleons, only 8-10 cm long, with a soft, round-oval rostral appendage and subdued colours in yellow, greenish brown and beige. It lives in rainforest in north-western Madagascar, including the islands of Nosy Be and Nosy Komba. The species needs warm, humid air with cooler nights and is for the experienced keeper. Its boundaries have been unclear.

Family: Chamaeleonidae Former name: *Chamaeleo boettgeri; Chamaeleon boettgeri; Chamaeleon macrorhinus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**8-10 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**3-5 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**40 × 40 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**22-27 °C**
Basking spot	**27-29 °C**
Temperature, night	**16-20 °C**
Humidity	**70-100%**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**9 months**
Clutch size	**4-5 eggs**
Incubation	**90 days** at 22-24 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
Little is known about the care of *Calumma boettgeri*. The climate below is based on measurements from the species' habitats.

TEMPERATURE
By day the temperature should be 22-27 °C, with a basking spot of 27-29 °C. The temperature must not exceed 29 °C on the warmest branches.

HUMIDITY AND WATER
Humidity must be high: 70-80 % for part of the day and higher at night, up to 100 % after misting.

LIGHTING AND UVB
The species is diurnal and needs bright daylight for 12 hours a day. UVB is recommended. Aim for Ferguson zone 2, that is a UV index of about 2-3 on the highest branches, with a T5 HO UVB tube and plenty of shade.

FEEDING
C. boettgeri eats small insects: fruit flies, springtails, small crickets and small grasshoppers. The feeder insects must be small, because the animal itself is so small. Young are fed daily, adults every other day.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
The species is kept singly, because individuals are aggressive towards one another. Handling should be limited to what is necessary, and a new animal is given two weeks in peace.

NATIVE RANGE
Madagascar.