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CHAMELEONS

Canopy Chameleon

Furcifer willsii

Furcifer willsii is a small, green chameleon from the humid montane forests of central eastern Madagascar. The male carries two parallel, upturned nose projections, which the female lacks. The species is sensitive, needs cool, humid air, shade and plenty of water, and is only rarely kept.

Family: Chamaeleonidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**15-17 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**2-3 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest and montane forest**
Difficulty	**Expert**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 45 × 90 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**20-25 °C**
Basking spot	**26-28 °C**
Temperature, night	**12-18 °C**
Humidity	**65-100%**
Water	**No water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**6-23 eggs**
Incubation	**150-400 days** at 20-25 °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 *Furcifer willsii*. The climate in the species' range is cool and humid: days of 23-27 °C, nights of 10-20 °C and rain most of the year.

TEMPERATURE

The species comes from cool mountain forests and tolerates heat poorly. The daytime temperature should be 20-25 °C with a mild basking spot of 26-28 °C on a branch just under the lamp, measured with an IR thermometer.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Humidity should be high all year: about 65-80 % by day and 90-100 % at night. The species drinks droplets from leaves and branches, not from a bowl.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is diurnal, but lives in dense forest with shade and partial shade. Provide 12 hours of light a day with a T5 tube over the whole length of the enclosure. UVB is recommended.

FEEDING

Furcifer willsii is an insectivore. Offer small, varied insects: small crickets, small cockroaches, fruit flies and moths. Flying insects are a good supplement. Young animals are fed every day, adults every other day.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

The species is shy, sensitive and nervous. It should not be handled and readily bites at a finger. Keep the animal alone, and arrange the enclosures so that males cannot see one another.

NATIVE RANGE

Madagascar.