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CHAMELEONS

## Fischer's Chameleon

# *Kinyongia fischeri*

*Kinyongia fischeri* is a large, green montane chameleon from the Nguru and Nguu Mountains in Tanzania. The male has a flattened rostral appendage and a crest of cone-shaped scales along the back. The species lays eggs and needs a cool, humid climate and a large, densely planted enclosure. Only a few animals of the true species have ever been exported, so its care is based on its closest relatives, and it suits the experienced keeper best.

Family: Chamaeleonidae  Former name: *Chamaeleon fischeri; Bradypodion fischeri; Chamaeleon tornieri*

KEY FACTS

### THE ANIMAL

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|---|---|
| Adult size | **30-40 cm**<br>total length incl. tail |
| Lifespan | **6-7 years** |
| Active | **By day** |
| Lifestyle | **Arboreal** |
| Habitat | **Rainforest and montane forest** |
| Difficulty | **Experienced** |

### CARE

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|---|---|
| Min. enclosure | **60 × 60 × 120 cm**<br>L × W × H for 1 adult |
| Temperature, day | **20-25 °C** |
| Basking spot | **27-29 °C** |
| Temperature, night | **12-16 °C** |
| Humidity | **70-100%** |
| Water | **No water dish** |
| UVB | **Recommended**<br>Ferguson zone 2 |
| Diet | **Insects** |
| Kept | **Singly** |

### BREEDING

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|---|---|
| Reproduction | **Egg-laying** |
| Sexually mature | **9-12 months** |
| Clutch size | **12-20 eggs** |
| Incubation | **240-330 days**<br>at 17-25 °C |

### PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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| CITES | **Appendix II** |
| EU annex | **Annex B** |
| IUCN | **Near Threatened (NT)** |

## Care at a glance

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| **THE ENCLOSURE** | Almost nothing is known about the care of *Kinyongia fischeri* itself, because only a very few animals of the true species have been kept in captivity. |
| **TEMPERATURE** | The temperatures are estimated from the montane climate. During the day it should be 20-25 °C with a basking spot of 27-29 °C, and at night the temperature should fall to 12-16 °C. |
| **HUMIDITY AND WATER** | The humidity should be high, 70-100%, and highest at night and in the morning. The animal drinks droplets and should not be given a water bowl. |
| **LIGHTING AND UVB** | The species is diurnal and needs a bright, but not too hot, enclosure. UVB is recommended, and Ferguson zone 2 is an estimate for a montane chameleon. |
| **FEEDING** | *Kinyongia fischeri* eats insects such as crickets, roaches, silkworms, hornworms and locusts. The species in the group take anything that fits in the mouth, including smaller lizards. |
| **BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING** | *Kinyongia fischeri* is shy and is stressed by handling. Do not pick the animal up without reason, and give a new animal a few weeks in peace before it is handled. The species is kept singly, and males are territorial. |
| **NATIVE RANGE** | Tanzania. |