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CHAMELEONS

Matschie's Two-horned Chameleon

Kinyongia matschiei

Kinyongia matschiei is the largest species in the genus *Kinyongia*, a chameleon with a pair of prominent nasal horns and a long prehensile tail from the forests of the East Usambara Mountains in Tanzania. It is shy, threatened in the wild and very rare in captivity, so little is known about its care.

Family: Chamaeleonidae Former name: *Chamaeleon matschiei; Chamaeleon fischeri matschiei*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**36-41 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-8 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest and montane forest**
Difficulty	**Expert**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**90 × 60 × 150 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**20-25 °C**
Basking spot	**26-28 °C**
Temperature, night	**12-16 °C**
Humidity	**50-100%**
Water	**No water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**12-20 eggs**
Incubation	**390-400 days** at 20-22 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Endangered (EN)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Kinyongia matschiei*. The climate in the East Usambaras is humid and mild with cool nights, and the species has the same requirements as other montane chameleons.
TEMPERATURE	By day the enclosure should hold 20-25 °C. Over a branched basking spot in the upper part of the enclosure the surface may reach 26-28 °C for a few hours in the morning and afternoon.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Air humidity should fluctuate. At night it should be close to 100 %, and by day it may fall to about 50 %, so that the enclosure dries off. Constantly high humidity causes mould and respiratory infections.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is diurnal and needs strong light for 11-12 hours a day. Put one or two T5 HO tubes of 6,500 K or a powerful LED plant lamp over the enclosure. This gives light for the plants and clear colours in the animal.
FEEDING	*Kinyongia matschiei* eats insects. The species takes anything that fits in its mouth and is particularly fond of silkworms.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Kinyongia matschiei* is shy and easily stressed. When the species is frightened, the colour becomes dark and striped, and the animal hides in the foliage or creeps down a branch.
NATIVE RANGE	Tanzania.