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CHAMELEONS

Kilimanjaro Two-horned Chameleon

Kinyongia tavetana

Kinyongia tavetana is a medium-sized mountain chameleon from Kilimanjaro, Mount Meru, the Pare Mountains and the Chyulu Hills in Tanzania and Kenya. The male has two flat, leaf-shaped horns on the snout, the female only two small knobs. The species lays eggs and needs cool nights, high humidity and a densely planted enclosure. Little is known about its care, and it is best suited to the experienced keeper.

Family: Chamaeleonidae Former name: *Chamaeleon tavetanus; Bradypodion tavetanum; Chamaeleo abbotti*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**20-24 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-7 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Montane forest**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 60 × 90 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**20-25 °C**
Basking spot	**26-28 °C**
Temperature, night	**14-18 °C**
Humidity	**70-100%**
Water	**No water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**9-12 months**
Clutch size	**2-12 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1-2**
Incubation	**220-270 days** at 16-23 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

Little is known about the care of *Kinyongia tavetana*. Care is based on the climate of the range and on the closest, better-known mountain species *Kinyongia fischeri*, *Kinyongia matschiei* and *Kinyongia tenuis*.

TEMPERATURE

By day the temperature should be 20-25 °C, ideally around 25 °C, with a basking branch at 26-28 °C, and at night it should fall to 14-18 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

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. Mist at least twice a day, or set up a drip or rain system.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is active by day and needs a bright, but not too warm enclosure. UVB is recommended, and Ferguson zone 2 is an estimate for a mountain chameleon.

FEEDING

Kinyongia tavetana eats insects of suitable size such as crickets, flies, small locusts and cockroaches. Feeder insects should be captive-bred and well fed on nutritious food. Juveniles are fed daily.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Kinyongia tavetana is nervous of its surroundings and is stressed by handling. Do not pick the animal up without reason, and let a new animal settle for a few weeks. Opaque sides and back give calm.

NATIVE RANGE

Kenya and Tanzania.