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CHAMELEONS

Elliot's Chameleon

Trioceros ellioti

Trioceros ellioti is a small, live-bearing chameleon from montane forest, scrub and savanna in central and eastern Africa. Colours vary widely between populations: males often show blue and yellow tones, females are brown, grey or green, and both have a pale stripe along the flank. The species needs a cool enclosure with a clear night-time drop, high night humidity and solitary housing.

Family: Chamaeleonidae Former name: *Chamaeleo ellioti; Chamaeleo bequaerti*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**15-22 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**2-4 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Savanna and montane forest**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 45 × 90 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**20-24 °C**
Basking spot	**27-30 °C**
Temperature, night	**10-15 °C**
Humidity	**30-100%**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Sexually mature	**6-9 months**
Litter size	**2-18 young**
Clutches per year	**1-4**
Gestation	**90-160 days**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	A single adult needs an enclosure of at least 45 × 45 × 90 cm (length × width × height).
TEMPERATURE	By day the temperature should be 20-24 °C, preferably with a basking spot of 27-30 °C. The daytime temperature in the rest of the enclosure must not stay above 29 °C for long.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Night is the humid time: 75-100 % at night, while humidity falls to 30-50 % by day.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is diurnal and needs strong light. Four T5 HO tubes of 6500 K across the width of the enclosure light a 120 cm tall enclosure well.
FEEDING	*T. ellioti* is insectivorous and takes the usual feeder insects: crickets, grasshoppers, flies, cockroaches and silkworms. Flying insects are a favourite.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is kept singly. It is milder than many chameleons, but reacts suddenly and violently when two animals meet, and can seriously injure an animal in the same enclosure.
NATIVE RANGE	Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Congo - Kinshasa, Kenya, South Sudan and Tanzania.