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CHAMELEONS

Johnston's Chameleon

Trioceros johnstoni

Trioceros johnstoni is a medium-sized, egg-laying chameleon from the mountain forests of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and eastern Congo. The male has three horns, two above the eyes and one on the snout, and is green with turquoise or yellow crossbands; the female has no horns. The species needs a cool day, a clear drop in temperature at night, mist and high night-time humidity, and it is sensitive to excess vitamin supplements.

Family: Chamaeleonidae Former name: *Chamaeleo johnstoni; Chamaeleo laevigularis*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**25-38 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**50-110 g**
Lifespan	**5-6 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Montane forest**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 60 × 120 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**20-24 °C**
Basking spot	**26-28 °C**
Temperature, night	**10-15 °C**
Humidity	**60-100%**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**10-12 months**
Clutch size	**8-18 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1-2**
Incubation	**100-120 days** at 18-21 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

An adult needs an enclosure of at least 60 × 60 × 120 cm (length × width × height). Males grow large and benefit from extra width. The size is the same as for other medium-sized montane chameleons of the genus *Trioceros*.

TEMPERATURE

By day the temperature should be 20-24 °C, never above room temperature for long periods, with a basking spot of 26-28 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Night is the species' humid time. Humidity should be 80-100 % at night and fall to 60-80 % 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 up a 120 cm high enclosure well. Provide 12 hours of light and 12 hours of darkness all year round.

FEEDING

T. johnstoni is an insectivore and takes the usual feeder insects: crickets, grasshoppers, flies and roaches. Land snails are a particular favourite. The insects should themselves be fed a nutritious diet.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

The species is kept individually. Males must never be able to see each other.

NATIVE RANGE

Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Congo - Kinshasa.