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CHAMELEONS

Crater Highlands Side-striped Chameleon

Trioceros sternfeldi

Trioceros sternfeldi is a small, live-bearing chameleon from the high mountains of northern Tanzania, Mount Meru and Kilimanjaro. It was described as a subspecies of *Trioceros rudis*. Very little is known about its care. The species needs a cool enclosure with a clear night-time drop and high night humidity.

Family: Chamaeleonidae Former name: *Chamaeleo sternfeldi*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**15-18 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**3-5 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Montane forest**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 45 × 90 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**20-22 °C**
Basking spot	**24-25 °C**
Temperature, night	**8-14 °C**
Humidity	**50-100%**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Litter size	**2-18 young**
Gestation	**90-160 days**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Trioceros sternfeldi*, and the species is rarely seen in captivity.
TEMPERATURE	The species comes from cool highland and tolerates heat poorly. By day the temperature should be 20-22 °C, with a basking spot of 24-25 °C, so the animal can warm up in the morning.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Night is the humid time. Humidity should rise towards 100 % at night, with fog from an ultrasonic fogger for 3-4 hours late at night and early in the morning. By day it may fall to about 50-70 %.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is diurnal and needs strong light for 12 hours a day all year, from a T5 HO tube of 6500 K or a powerful LED lamp across the width of the enclosure. The enclosure must be completely dark at night. UVB is essential.
FEEDING	*T. sternfeldi* eats insects: crickets, grasshoppers, flies, cockroaches and silkworms. Small montane chameleons readily take small prey, even as adults, so try different sizes. Fruit and vegetables are not necessary.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is kept singly. Small montane chameleons can be mild, but they react suddenly and violently when two animals meet and can seriously injure each other. Young are separated as early as possible.
NATIVE RANGE	Tanzania.