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CHAMELEONS

Werner's Chameleon

Trioceros werneri

Trioceros werneri is a medium-sized, live-bearing chameleon from the cool mountains of southern and central Tanzania. The male has three horns, two above the eyes and one on the snout, while the female has only a single nasal horn or none at all. The species requires cool days, a pronounced drop in temperature at night and a long morning mist, and it is rare in captivity.

Family: Chamaeleonidae Former name: *Chamaeleo werneri*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**25-30 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-6 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	**20-22 °C**
Basking spot	**24-26 °C**
Temperature, night	**10-15 °C**
Humidity	**50-100%**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Sexually mature	**6-12 months**
Litter size	**8-30 young**
Clutches per year	**1**
Gestation	**210-300 days**

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 × 90 cm (length × width × height). The size is borrowed from other medium-sized mountain chameleons of the genus *Trioceros*, for example *Trioceros quadricornis*, and is a minimum.

TEMPERATURE

The species is a mountain animal and tolerates heat poorly. The daytime temperature in the enclosure should be 20-22 °C. At night the temperature should fall sharply to 10-15 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

The species requires high humidity, and the enclosure must dry out during the day.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is diurnal. Provide 12 hours of light a day all year round with a T5 HO tube of 6500 K or a powerful LED lamp across the width of the enclosure. UVB is recommended.

FEEDING

T. werneri is an insectivore and eats most things that are small enough. Give crickets, silkworms, grasshoppers, flies and other small insects of suitable size.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

The species is kept singly. Adults bully each other and must not be kept together, and males must not be able to see each other. Gravid females are kept alone. The species is a display animal, not a pet.

NATIVE RANGE

Tanzania.