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GECKOS

Afroedura africana

Afroedura africana is a small, flat, nocturnal rock gecko from the granite mountains of central Namibia. It squeezes into narrow crevices, tolerates a large difference between day and night and is a species for the experienced keeper. Little is known about its care, so the guide is based on the climate, the habitat and the habits of the genus.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Oedura africana*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**5-6 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling**
Habitat	**Semi-desert and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**40 × 30 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-30 °C**
Basking spot	**30-32 °C**
Temperature, night	**12-18 °C**
Humidity	**30-50%**
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**In pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**60-90 days** at 24-28 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Afroedura africana*. The advice is based on the climate and habitat and on other nocturnal rock geckos from Namibia such as *Chondrodactylus bibronii* and *Chondrodactylus fitzsimonsi*.
TEMPERATURE	Provide a gradient so that the animal can choose for itself. By day the enclosure should be 24-30 °C, and a small, warm rock surface may reach 30-32 °C. At night the temperature should fall to 12-18 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The species comes from an arid area. Keep the air relatively dry, around 30-50 % relative humidity. The range is an estimate based on the habitat.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is nocturnal and hides by day.
FEEDING	Give live insects: crickets, smaller grasshoppers, brown and black cockroaches (dubia) and mealworms and waxworms as a change. The insects must be smaller than the distance between the animal's eyes and dusted with calcium.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Afroedura africana* is shy and fast and should not be handled. It disappears into crevices at the slightest disturbance, so all care should be carried out calmly and in the evening. Never grab the tail.
NATIVE RANGE	Namibia.