herpy

GECKOS

Persian spider gecko

Agamura persica

A slender, long-legged gecko from the stony semi-deserts of Iran, without adhesive pads on the toes and with dark crossbands over the back and tail. It is nocturnal, feeds on insects and is regarded as hardy in a dry rocky enclosure, but it is rare in captivity, and experience with breeding is limited.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Gymnodactylus persicus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**7-14 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Semi-desert and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 60 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**22-27 °C**
Basking spot	**37-43 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**20-40%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Optional**
Winter rest	**16-22 °C** 6-8 weeks
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**18-24 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**65-70 days** at 28-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	The species is ground-dwelling and climbs on rocks, so floor area matters more than height. An adult needs an enclosure with a floor of at least 60 × 60 cm.
TEMPERATURE	Give the terrarium a clear temperature gradient. The cool side is kept at 22-27 °C, and on a flat stone under a heat lamp a warm spot of 37-43 °C is created where the gecko can bask.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The humidity should be low to moderate. A precise figure is not documented for the species, but 20-40 % corresponds to the dry semi-desert it comes from, and high humidity easily causes problems.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is nocturnal, but regular daylight from an ordinary fluorescent tube or an LED lamp gives a clear daily rhythm and makes it possible to see the animals.
FEEDING	The species is an insectivore. The staple diet is crickets and mealworms, and wax moth larvae are given only as an occasional treat, because they are fatty.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Agamura persica* is fast, somewhat shy and best as an animal to watch. It can leap and climb on rocks and is hard to catch if it escapes, so open the enclosure calmly.
NATIVE RANGE	Iran.