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GECKOS

Even-fingered Gecko

Alsophylax pipiens

Alsophylax pipiens is a small, nocturnal gecko from the deserts and steppes of Central Asia, where summers are hot and winters cold. It grows to 7-9 cm including the tail, hibernates from autumn to spring, and the males can produce a whistling sound. The care is based on the climate of the range.

Family: Gekkonidae English name: Even-fingered gecko Former name: *Lacerta pipiens; Alsophylax microtis*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**7-9 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Desert, semi-desert and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**40 × 30 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**25-28 °C**
Basking spot	**32-35 °C**
Temperature, night	**15-20 °C**
Humidity	**30-40%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Optional**
Winter rest	**8-12 °C** 8-12 weeks
Diet	**Insects and small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**12 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Incubation	**40-60 days** at 26-28 °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 *Alsophylax pipiens*. The climate in the range is dry and continental with hot summers and cold winters, and the species lives in crevices in clay, limestone and rock.

TEMPERATURE
Create a gradient. By day the terrarium is kept at 25-28 °C with a basking spot of 32-35 °C under a lamp controlled by a thermostat. At night the temperature falls to 15-20 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER
The air should be dry, about 30-40 %. Provide a very shallow dish of fresh water, changed regularly, and put a couple of stones in it so small animals cannot drown.

LIGHTING AND UVB
Alsophylax pipiens is active at night, so UVB is not necessary when the feeder insects are dusted with calcium and vitamin D3. A weak UVB tube can be used if there is enough shade and cover.

FEEDING
The species feeds on small arthropods. Give small feeder insects: springtails, fruit flies, small crickets and newly hatched cockroaches. Prey must not be wider than the distance between the animal's eyes.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
Alsophylax pipiens is a small, shy and fast animal that is not suited to handling. The tail can break off if you grab it. The animal is most active after dark, and the males can be heard whistling.

NATIVE RANGE
Mongolia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and China.