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GECKOS

Zigzag Velvet Gecko

Amalosia rhombifer

Amalosia rhombifer is a small, nocturnal gecko from northern Australia with a pale, jagged zigzag pattern along the back. It lives in trees in open forest and savanna and hides under loose bark during the day. Little is known about its care, so the guide is based on the habitat and on related species.

Family: Diplodactylidae English name: Zigzag velvet gecko Former name: *Oedura rhombifer*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**12-16 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**8-12 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Savanna**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 30 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**24-28 °C**
Basking spot	**30-33 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**40-60%**
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**3-5**
Incubation	**60-65 days** at 27-29 °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 *Amalosia rhombifer*.
TEMPERATURE	By day the terrarium is kept at 24-28 °C, and under a heat source at one end it can be 30-33 °C, so the animal can choose for itself. At night the temperature may fall to 18-22 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be moderate: 40-60 %. Mist one half of the enclosure lightly every second to third day, so bark and substrate dry out again within a day. In summer, in the rainy season, a little more misting can be done.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is nocturnal and does not require UVB, but a weak UVB tube for shade-dwelling animals (Ferguson zone 1) over one side of the enclosure gives a more reliable calcium metabolism and does no harm when there is plenty of shade.
FEEDING	The gecko eats insects and other small arthropods: crickets, grasshoppers, small cockroaches, moths and small mealworms. Prey should be smaller than the distance between the animal's eyes.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Amalosia rhombifer* is shy and fast and should not be handled more than necessary. It can drop its tail when it feels threatened, and the tail regrows in a different form. Never hold it by the tail.
NATIVE RANGE	Australia.